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ARAB TIMES

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THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 28-29, 1988

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**25 years
as foreign
minister**

Mubarak briefs on peace plan Palestinians call for international force in West Bank

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (Agencies):

Two moderate Palestinian leaders urged US Secretary of State George Shultz today to support an international peacekeeping force to protect Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli troops.

Mubarak's proposal envisages a six-month moratorium on violence by Palestinians in the occupied lands in return for an Israeli commitment to halt Jewish settlements there and to agree to an international conference on the Middle East.

The letter said intervention in the Israeli-occupied territories by an international force "to whose trusteeship our population can be delivered" should be a first step toward convening an international peace conference under United Nations auspices.

The letter was signed by Shimon Peres and Abu Rahme and addressed to Shultz.

The Reagan administration has also sought Israeli views on the unrest and prospects for Middle East peace by playing host this week to a senior envoy of Shamir, Cabinet Secretary Elieakim Rubinstein.

Initiative

A man who identified himself as a representative of the two Palestinian leaders distributed copies of the letter to reporters waiting in the State Department diplomatic lobby for the Shultz meeting to conclude.

Earlier Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak briefed Shultz on a plan to end violence in Israeli-occupied lands as the United States put fresh force into its regional peace efforts.

Mubarak, whose initiative calls for a six-month cooling-off period by both Palestinians and Israelis in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, also met Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci prior to a meeting with President Reagan tomorrow.

Mubarak's trip, his first to Washington since September 1985, acquired extra urgency because of disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza which have seen 39 people killed in the most serious unrest since Israel occupied the lands in 1967.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reportedly bowed to US pressure and lifted an order banning Shimon from leaving the country for three months.

Despite the flurry of diplomatic activity, which continues in March when Shamir himself will visit Washington, US officials cautioned against expecting a breakthrough in

(Continued on Page 2)



Cabinet honours Thatcher

LONDON, Jan 27, (AP): The British cabinet treated Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to a candlelit dinner last night to celebrate her becoming the longest serving prime minister this century.

Mrs Thatcher, 62, was accompanied by her husband, Denis, 72, to the dinner in the oak-paneled coffee room of the Carlton Club, headquarters of the ruling Conservative Party.

Mrs Thatcher set a new record Jan 3, when her eight years and 244 days in office overtook the tenure of Liberal Party leader Herbert Asquith, who was prime minister from 1908 to 1916.

The ministers presented Mrs Thatcher with a watercolour of her official residence, No. 10 Downing Street, painted by Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley.



A Palestinian youth hurls a stone, using a large sling, towards Israeli soldiers outside occupied Jerusalem. (Reuter wirephoto)

Aspirin cuts risk of heart attack

BOSTON, Jan 27, (Reuter): A massive US medical survey has found that an aspirin every other day cuts the risk of heart attacks for healthy men by almost half.

The survey is the most conclusive evidence to date that aspirin, because of its anti-clotting properties, may have a significant impact on reducing the risk of heart disease in healthy people, medical experts say.

The findings, reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, were due to be released today but details leaked out beforehand and news organisations published the results ahead of the release time.

The physicians' health study group, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, chose 22,071 healthy US male doctors between the ages of 40 and 84 to take a 350-milligram aspirin, supplied by Bristol-Myers Co., or a placebo every other day.

Risk

After almost five years of follow-up, the researchers found that the total number of heart attacks among doctors taking the aspirin was 47 per cent lower than those taking the placebo. The risk of all types of heart disease dropped by 23 per cent.

The findings "will be regarded as a milestone in the continuing struggle against myocardial infarction (heart attack)," wrote Dr Arnold Relman, editor of the journal, in an accompanying editorial.

"So clear an effect of aspirin on the incidence of myocardial infarction is unlikely to be explained by methodological error," he said.

The steering committee of the physicians' health study group, affiliated with Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, said the results were so positive that it decided in December to end the study three years early and report its findings as soon as possible.

The board's recommendation to terminate the randomised

(Continued on Page 2)

Little progress in Iraq-Syria relations

AMMAN, Jan 27, (AP): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said there has been no recent progress in efforts to improve his country's relations with Syria, a newspaper reported today.

"There is nothing new on this topic," Aziz was quoted as telling the daily Al Dustour in an interview conducted on Monday.

He also criticised Syrian efforts to mediate between Iran and Arab states.

Jordan's King Hussein has led efforts to reconcile the neighbouring Arab states, and during last November's Arab summit in Amman, Jordanian officials announced the start of Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement.

The summit leaders joined in an expression of support for Iraq and a demand that Iran accept a ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

Basics

"There was a dialogue between the Iraqi and Syrian leadership in Amman's summit ... on basis of establishing normal relations," Aziz was quoted as saying.

He said bases for the relationship were to include "the summit's resolutions, Arab League agreements and the joint Arab Defence Pact," which calls for Arab states to go to the aid of others under attack.

Azziz was quoted as saying Hussein's mediation efforts "resulted in a meeting between (Iraq) President Saddam Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Assad last April," and another meeting between Aziz and his

(Continued on Page 2)

New escalation in tanker war

MANAMA, Jan 27, (Agencies): Iraqi warplanes slammed an Exocet missile into a Cypriot tanker loaded with Iranian oil in a pre-dawn attack today and reportedly returned nine hours later to raid another unidentified ship off the Iranian coast.

The latest Iraqi air raid reports signalled a new escalation in the so-called "tanker war" in which Iraq raids vessels ferrying Iranian crude and Iran retaliates by attacking neutral shipping in the Gulf.

The French-made Exocet mis

Syrian counterpart, Farouq Al Shara.

"What is needed now is to stick to Amman's summit resolutions," he added, according to the newspaper.

He also criticised Syrian efforts to broker talks between Iran and Gulf Arab states, aimed at reducing war-related threats against them and eventually to ending the war.

"Nobody has asked Syria's mediation with Iran," Aziz was quoted as saying.

Refusing

He reportedly said Iran "has violated the will of the international community" by refusing to accept United Nations Security Council resolution 598 demanding a ceasefire, "and the military party knows that Iran is an enemy regime."

"Practically, Iran is attacking Iraq in efforts to occupy more lands and threaten the navigation in the Gulf. Therefore, claiming mediation is not a workable solution."

Saddam, in an interview published yesterday, also criticised Syrian contacts with Iran, although he said he did not object to Gulf Arab contacts with Iran.

He said he had "nothing against" efforts by the six-nation GCC to open a dialogue with Iran so long as it was aimed at a Gulf war ceasefire and did not affect the Gulf states' support for Iraq.

Iranian leaders have warned that improved relations require

(Continued on Page 2)

Abduction 'linked' to trial of Hamadi

BEIRUT, Jan 27, (Reuter): Gunmen seized a West German of Lebanese origin in West Beirut today in a kidnap which diplomats said could be linked to the trial of Lebanese-born Abbas Ali Hamadi in Dusseldorf.

Police said about six armed men travelling in three cars snatched engineer Ralph Schray, 30, near his home in the commercial district of Bristol just a few blocks from a Syrian Army checkpoint.

A shop owner near the scene said a policeman rushed to help Schray but was held at bay by one of the kidnappers who stuck a rifle muzzle in his stomach.

Schray's Lebanese wife of five months, Rana, said her husband had a Lebanese mother and a West German father. He had lived all his life in Lebanon and

spoke only a few words of German.

"I don't know who kidnapped him or why," she said, obviously distraught. She said the family was doing all it could to secure his release.

Diplomats in Bonn said his abduction could be linked to the trial in Dusseldorf of Hamadi, a Lebanon-born West German citizen charged with kidnapping West Germans Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt in Lebanon a year ago.

Pressure

The brother of two Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese detained in West Germany was behind the kidnapping of Schray a member of Schray's family said.

The relative, who asked not to be identified, said a senior Muslim Shi'ite official told him

Tehran claims it manufactures Silkworm missiles

BEIJING, Jan 27, (AP): Iran's Ambassador to China claimed today that his country now manufactures its own Silkworm missiles, copying the Chinese design of Silkworms already from Iraq.

Ambassador Alaeddin Broujerdi held a news conference that Iran needs no advice or aid from China, the original maker of Silkworms, in its production.

"This attests to the fact that long years of war bring about creativity in every country," Broujerdi said. "It is very natural that we don't need any advice from other countries."

Iran, which has been fighting Iraq since September 1980, has used the portable surface-to-surface missiles in several attacks on Kuwaiti ships and installations in recent months.

Refused

The United States accuses China of selling Iran the missiles, a charge both China and Iran deny. Iran said last October that it obtained the missiles by capturing them in battle from Iraq.

Broujerdi did not say when Iran began manufacturing the missiles and refused to give other details, such as the number produced.

He declined to corroborate his claim with evidence such as photographs of the manufacturing facility because "we are a country at war, and all the military affairs of such a country are confidential."

US officials, however, say that ships carrying Chinese-made Silkworms have embarked for Iran from North Korea this month. The United States has

imposed limited sanctions against China for the alleged sales.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said today that China objected to a US Defence Department decision to put it back on its list of countries considered hostile to the United States.

US officials said on Monday China was to rejoin Cuba, the Soviet Union and Vietnam on a list of 30 countries and areas with interests considered adverse to those of the United States.

"We believe that listing China as a hostile country contradicts the position that the United States government has stated officially and openly on many occasions," the Chinese spokeswoman told a weekly news briefing.

Inclusion on the list means Chinese who become US citizens are denied security clearance for five years after naturalisation.

China had been classified as "hostile" for many years until 1987, when its name was incorrectly deleted from the regulation, the Defence Department said yesterday.

Broujerdi also said he was confident that neither China nor the Soviet Union would agree to any proposal in the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Iran. The United States has pressed for international sanctions, accusing Iran of failing to cooperate with UN peace efforts.

"It is very obvious that China is not a country that is sensitive to pressure from the United States," he said.

THE draft traffic law contains stiff penalties for violations.

The new law proposes up to six months imprisonment and a fine not exceeding KD300 for unauthorised driving of vehicles or driving an unauthorised vehicle or racing.

The same penalties may be imposed for work on roads, such as excavations, done without prior consent of the General Traffic Department, and for the failure to notify the police or ambulance when an accident takes place.

These

INTERNATIONAL

1,145 candidates file nomination papers

Ershad defends police shooting as routine action

ROME, Jan 27. (Agencies): President Hossain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh yesterday defended the shooting deaths of 13 anti-government demonstrators by police as routine action against vandals.

He denied opposition demands that he resign as "wishes thinking".

Ershad, in Rome to attend the conference of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, pledged to go ahead with March 3 parliamentary elections despite a boycott by the mainstream opposition parties.

"If they have thousands of supporters, I have millions," he

former Army general said at a news conference. "I tell you one thing with great emphasis: they will never come to an election against me because they can never win the election."

The main opposition parties in Bangladesh began a series of strikes and protest rallies in November to demand the ouster of Ershad, who seized power in a coup in 1982.

Refuses

The opposition refuses to participate in the March 3 polls, saying the vote would be rigged in favour of Ershad's Jatiya Party. They demand he resign and let a

neutral caretaker government run the elections.

The anti-government campaign is led by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, who together lead an alliance of 21 opposition parties.

On Sunday, police in Chittagong opened fire at the end of a rally led by Sheikh Hasina. At least 13 people were reported killed. But opposition leaders claimed 17 were shot dead.

Demands

"There is nothing critical in Bangladesh," he said. "The developing countries always have this. We have come to live with it. The strikes, protest meetings, agitations — it keeps them (the opposition) going."

"Nobody is allowed to do vandalism, burn and destroy public property, loot shops and commercial establishments," he said.

"So police has taken the normal measures. It is nothing political."

The 57-year-old President defended his decision to travel to Rome at a time of serious political unrest.

Demands

"There is nothing critical in Bangladesh," he said. "The developing countries always have this. We have come to live with it. The strikes, protest meetings, agitations — it keeps them (the opposition) going."

He firmly reiterated his refusal to bow to demands for his resignation before the election.

In Dhaka officials said today that Bangladesh's Deputy Prime Minister, Shah Moazzem Hosain, was assured of electoral victory more than a month before the polls because no opposition filed nomination papers.

A Bangladesh Election Commission official said Hosain, a leader of the ruling Jana Party, would be formally declared unopposed in the March 3 poll.

Despite the boycott, the commission said 1,145 candidates would stand for the Parliament's 299 seats.

Aspirin cuts risk of heart attack

(Continued from Page 1)

aspirin component was based on consideration of the extreme beneficial effects of aspirin on both fatal and non-fatal heart attacks, the researchers said.

The doctors chosen for the study had no history of heart disease, cancer, current liver or renal disease, ulcer or gout and were not taking aspirin at the time.

Stroke

The researchers found that there was a 15 percent increase in the risk of stroke among those taking aspirin, but said the

increase was so slight that it could be due to a statistical fluke.

On the basis of death rates of US white men with the same age distribution, the researchers said 733 cardiovascular deaths would have been expected, whereas only 88 confirmed in the study group during the first 4.8 years of follow-up.

Rehman cautioned that the results did not necessarily justify the widespread use of aspirin for the primary prevention of heart attacks.

"The results of this study were obtained in a highly selected population," he said — healthy males with no adverse reactions to aspirin.

"The trial results provide good reason to consider using aspirin in patients meeting those criteria, but they do not demonstrate the value and safety of aspirin in the general population," he said.

Reduce

There have been six earlier studies of the links between aspirin and the reduced risk of heart disease, but none were as extensive as the physicians' health study.

Doctors believe that aspirin may reduce the risk of heart attack by reducing the blood's ability to clot.

Palestinians call for ...

(Continued from Page 1) prevent further damage to Israel's world image, security sources said.

Shamir, Peres and Rabin decided not to depart until at least Sunday the five who are accused of inciting violent protests against Israeli rule last month.

Sporadic unrest and commercial strikes persisted in the West Bank today. Troops and protesters clashed in two refugee camps, Al Amari outside Ramallah and Shuafat north of Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources said helicopters were used to drop tear gas on Al Amari. The Army confirmed the use of helicopters but would not comment on the tear gas allegation.

The UN Security Council, which condemned Israel's decision to expel four other Palestinian activists to southern Lebanon earlier this month, was due to begin late today a report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Three Palestinian activists ordered deported before the riots began on Dec 9 were brought blindfolded, their hands and feet tied, to the Supreme Court where their appeals were being heard today, security sources and eyewitnesses said.

In Gaza, soldiers beat and kicked Israeli cameramen working for the American television network CBS and broke their equipment after they filmed troops hitting a Palestinian youth, cameraman Moshe Ben-Dor said.

The Middle East Council of Churches appealed to its members and churches around the world yesterday to declare Jan 29 a day of fasting and Jan 31 a day of prayers in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flag raised

TUNIS, Jan 27. (AP): Egyptian Ambassador Ali Maher raised his country's flag at Egypt's embassy in Tunis today following the resumption of diplomatic relations after a break of almost nine years.

The two countries announced on Saturday that relations would be restored.

Armacost visit

WASHINGTON, Jan 27. (AP): US Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost will travel to Israel and other Middle East countries next month for a round of regularly scheduled consultations, the State Department said yesterday.

Pilgrims drowned

RANGOON, Jan 27. (AP): Twenty-nine Buddhist pilgrims travelling to a pagoda festival drowned when a small schooner capsized off the western coast of Burma, a government-owned newspaper reported today.

The Myanma-Alin said the motorised, privately owned vessel went down during a night gale near Akyab, about 340 miles (547 km) northwest of Rangoon, on Jan 17.

Suicide bid foiled

PEKING, Jan 27. (Reuters): Chinese railway staff foiled an attempt by a 25-year-old man to commit suicide by blowing himself up on board a passenger train, the China Daily said today.

Tax rebates

ISTANBUL, Jan 27. (Reuters): The men of Adana in southern Turkey are seeking tax rebates for their brother expenses, claiming the visits are for health purposes.

The mass-circulation Hurriyet newspaper reported that Adana taxmen were divided on whether the claim was legitimate and had referred the issue to the value-added tax (VAT) authorities.

Priceless mask

LONDON, Jan 27. (Reuters): A priceless 3,000-year-old Egyptian mask has been flown to Britain to form the centrepiece of an exhibition in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh.

The golden funerary mask of Pharaoh Psusennes I was unveiled today after being transferred from a secret location under supervision of a curator from Cairo museum.

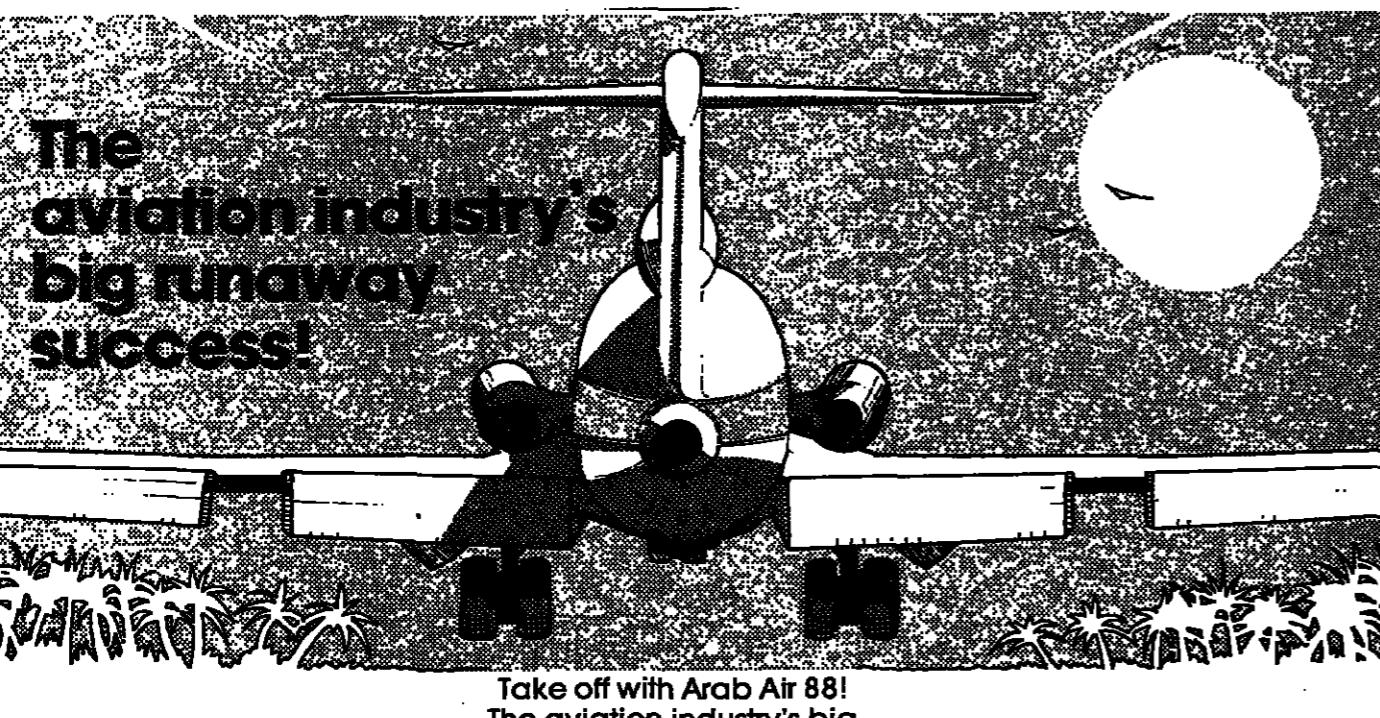
Rats devour baby

HONG KONG, Jan 27. (Reuters): Rats killed and ate a baby boy who was left alone at home by his parents in south China, the Canton Evening Post said.

The newspaper said in its yesterday's edition, which reached Hong Kong today, that the one-month-old baby was found dead and partly devoured when his peasant parents returned home from work.

Berlin Wall

BERLIN, Jan 27. (AP): Two East Germans scoured up a ladder to scale the Berlin Wall under fire from communist guards before dawn today and fled safely to West Berlin, police and residents reported.



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The aviation industry's big Middle East show returns to the Dubai International Trade Centre.

This year's exhibition is an absolute must for everyone connected with the industry in the region. On display will be a comprehensive range of the latest technology in aviation equipment and services, airport planning, construction and operation, aircraft, navigational aids, passenger service equipment, cargo handling and safety and security. Many of the world's leading companies in all fields of aviation will be present. So don't miss this opportunity.

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Little progress in Iraq-Syria relations

(Continued from Page 1) that the Gulf states drop all support for Iraq.

In Damascus, Syrian officials declined to comment on the renewed Iraqi war of words, and indicated clearly that Syria has no intention to reciprocate.

"Syria mediated upon the request of the GCC nations, and we plan to continue our mediation to prevent the war from escalating and widening," commented one source in the Syrian capital.

Messages

GCC Assistant Secretary-General Seif Al Miskiri, in statements published in Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej newspaper, said messages exchanged between Tehran and the UAE showed "positive elements" in the Iranian position.

The official said that the Security Council peace initiative in the Gulf cannot be carried out until the United States withdraws its major naval presence.

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MESSAGE TO SHAREHOLDERS

INVESTCORP's net income for the twelve months ended December 31, 1987 was \$28.8 million, an increase of 89.9% over 1986. Accordingly, our Firm has achieved record earnings in every year since its inception. The Return on Average Shareholders Funds in 1987 was 22.9%; the Return on Paid Share Capital was 28.8%; the Return on Average Assets was 5.9%. As a result of this performance, the Board of Directors has recommended the payment of a \$15 million dividend. If approved by the shareholders, this will be the fifth consecutive year a cash dividend of 15% of Paid Share Capital will have been distributed.

As INVESTCORP has completed its fifth year of operation, it is an appropriate time to reflect upon the principles that have guided the Firm and that will continue to sustain it in the future. In a financial world where instability and uncertainty prevail, adherence to these principles will strengthen and distinguish INVESTCORP from firms with less clarity and confidence of direction.

Our first guiding principle is to recognize that our business is people driven and that it requires the highest level of professionalism, expertise, commitment and teamwork from each of us. Accordingly, we devote substantial effort to the selection and development of our staff and to our corporate culture.

Our second principle is to preserve our place as a leading pan-Arabian Gulf investment bank and a preferred home for professionally managed investment capital from investors in the Gulf countries. These investors, most of whom have been loyal supporters of INVESTCORP from its inception, provide a committed source of capital, both for our Firm and its investments. Our investors are one of INVESTCORP's most important assets.

Our third guiding principle is to flexibly and vigorously pursue the broad mandate our founding shareholders provided. In pursuing our profit and investment objectives, INVESTCORP is not confined to any one economy, capital market or industry. We select from the widest range of investment opportunities in the industrialized world. Within that range, we have oriented ourselves primarily toward the acquisition of established private businesses and prime real estate. Our preference is for sustained growth and profitability. We have therefore been less susceptible than others to the volatility of public equity markets and the uncertainty of transactions that rely upon the substantial disposal of assets to support an acquired company's financial well-being. We move very quickly in a variety of economies, capital markets and industry sectors to anticipate those opportunities that will provide an optimum reward with acceptable risk during the period of our investment.

The fourth principle that guides INVESTCORP is that great transactions are made, not found. In our view, the success we have enjoyed has been largely derived from a willingness to immerse ourselves in opportunities that others may find too complex, too intensive or too drawn-out but which contain one or more core attributes of exceptional value. Similarly, we enjoy a competitive advantage where responsiveness, creativity and discretion are required, not mere financial weight. We believe that there is no rigid template for successful transactions and we try to approach each new opportunity without pre-conceptions, free to adapt ourselves to both the human and business dynamics of the transaction.

Our fifth guiding principle is that, while we will move quickly to exploit external investment opportunities, in the development of our Firm, we will maintain a gradualist approach, avoiding rapid, reflexive growth. We do not feel compelled to be in every geographical or capital market or every line of business. Because we choose to undertake only a few major transactions of quality each year, we have avoided the ill-focused cycles of growth and contraction common in the contemporary investment banking community. Where our own internal resources or expertise does not permit us to fully pursue opportunity, we feel no inhibition in extending the opportunity to outside partners or seeking the support of external professionals.

Our final guiding principle is that sustained success in our business is ultimately measured by the capital values realized over time from investments initiated by the Firm. Each of these guiding principles was apparent in INVESTCORP's development during 1987.

First, we have selectively increased and further developed our executive and professional staff to assure: (a) that each of our business centers, Bahrain, London and New York have a critical mass of executive and professional personnel to undertake our targeted businesses and to maintain a fully developed culture, and (b) that we have the capacity in each of our key regions, the Arabian Gulf, Europe and North America, to maintain direct and continuous relations between senior members of our Firm and the banks and other institutions whose support is essential to INVESTCORP.

Second, we began the year by putting into place the \$50 million in primary equity capital which had been raised from INVESTCORP shareholders in the Gulf late in 1986. This capital placement, which was substantially oversubscribed, was a further endorsement of our strong relationship with our shareholders.

Third, after several years of activity in the US markets, we announced the opening of a permanent office in New York, our third base location. We reached this decision only after we were confident we had the necessary level of business opportunity, experience and human resources to warrant this investment.

Fourth, having established our presence in the US markets based on several major corporate and real estate transactions, we undertook our first sustained corporate acquisition campaign in Europe. Early in the year we made a significant investment in the European travel and charter airline industry and this was followed by several other substantial European investments.

Fifth, we extended our investment activities from healthy well managed companies to "special situations" when we were selected by the French courts to acquire the business assets of the luxury jewelry firm, Chaumet, and its affiliate, Breguet, one of the outstanding Swiss watchmakers. In these transactions we saw an opportunity to merge tradenames and products of exceptional distinction with new, highly professional management teams and to revitalize these businesses.

Finally, we accomplished the full cycle of investment and capital realization when Tiffany & Company was taken to the public equity markets with outstanding returns to our Firm and the investors we represent. This result was achieved through a combination of superior earnings growth by the Company, the excellence of Tiffany's management and the ability to respond quickly to the capital market opportunity.

While there were many other important developments for our Firm in 1987, we believe these six are representative of both the enduring principles upon which INVESTCORP was formed and the way in which these principles have been, and will continue to be, applied in the evolution of our business. The international and regional capital markets remain unsettled, however, we are confident that INVESTCORP is very well positioned to continue its past success. We believe that the professionalism, integrity, creativity and commitment of our staff, and the fundamental soundness of our business strategy will continue to generate higher levels of performance in 1988 and beyond.

ABDUL RAHMAN SALIM AL-ATEEQI
Chairman of the Board of DirectorsNEMIR A. KIRDAR
President & Chief Executive OfficerCONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF
INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS
For the Year Ended December 31, 1987

STATEMENT OF INCOME		1987	1986
	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000
Interest income	31,359	27,861	
Interest expense	(18,999)	(16,553)	
Net interest income	12,360	10,308	
Net other income	33,828	16,419	
Operating income	45,188	27,327	
Less: Operating expenses	(15,710)	(12,182)	
Share of profits in associated companies	26,478	15,165	
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	28,883	15,165	

STATEMENT OF RETAINED EARNINGS

Balance at beginning of the year

Net income for the year

Transfer to statutory reserve

Transfer to general reserve

Proposed dividend

Directors' remuneration

Charitable contributions

Balance at end of the year

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

The above statements of Income, Retained Earnings and Balance Sheet are extracts from the unaudited financial statements of the Arabian Investment Banking Corporation (INVESTCORP) E.C.

11 January 1988

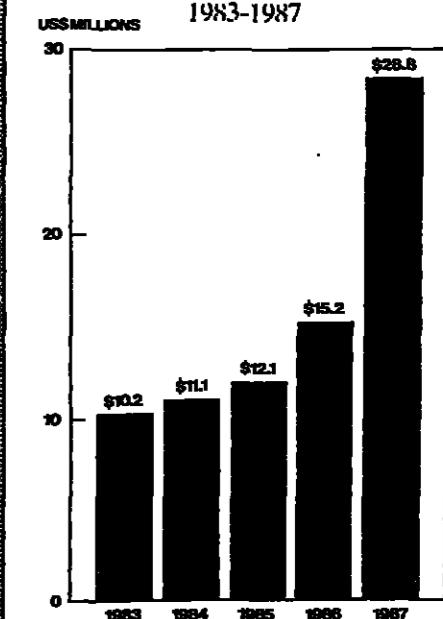
Enrico Schiavone

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
For the Year Ended December 31, 1987

ASSETS		1987	1986
	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000
Cash and short term funds	5,117	45,608	
Deposits with banks	247,244	125,482	
Marketable securities	59,802	60,528	
Accounts receivable	33,813	21,949	
Investment trading account	93,610	62,726	
Accrued interest and other assets	9,327	5,466	
Investments	51,739	50,878	
Investment in associated companies	35,630	31,250	
Fixed assets	15,332	14,008	
Total assets	551,614	418,497	

LIABILITIES		1987	1986
	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000
Deposits from banks	178,016	196,532	
Other deposits	96,845	52,393	
Proposed dividend	15,000	7,200	
Accrued interest and other payables	26,165	17,669	
Euronotes issued	100,000	22,000	
Capital subscriptions	54,079		
Total liabilities	420,827	357,773	

SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		1987	1986
	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000
Share capital	100,000	50,000	
Share premium reserve	4,079		
Statutory reserve	7,724	4,844	
General reserve	12,569	6,036	
Retained earnings	131,587	65,724	
Total shareholders' funds	251,614	418,497	
Total liabilities and shareholders' funds	551,614	418,497	

NET INCOME
1983-1987

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BAHRAYN
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Tel: 532000, Fax: 530816, Tlx: 9664

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London W1, United Kingdom
Tel: 01-629 6600, Fax: 01-499 0371, Tlx: 28430

NEW YORK
280 Park Avenue, 37th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.
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Arms may be supplied: Balladur

Support for Kuwait reiterated

By Jadranka Porter

FRENCH Economy and Finance Minister Edouard Balladur reiterated his country's support for Kuwait and other GCC countries in defusing the tension in the region and restoring peace and stability.

Speaking at a news conference at the conclusion of his two-day visit to Kuwait, Balladur said France's support to Kuwait could also include supply of arms. "France is open to all areas of cooperation," the minister remarked.

Rumours

During his stay in Kuwait the minister was received by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. He also held talks with the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and the Finance Minister, Jassem Al Khorafi.

Agreement

Asked about his country's latest relationship with Iran the minister denied there was a change in Paris' attitude towards the Tehran regime. Balladur, implied that recent reports about



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad with Balladur (left).

a rapprochement between the government of Jacques Chirac and Iranian leadership, following the release of two French hostages from Lebanon, were rumours.

Balladur said that France and Kuwait sealed a six-point economic cooperation agreement to step up investments between the two countries and promote technical cooperation in the field of

finance and telecommunications.

The agreement was hammered out during a meeting on Tuesday between the Kuwaiti-French economic commission chaired jointly by Balladur and Al Khorafi.

Economic ties

The plan calls for an increase in Kuwaiti imports from France to compensate for higher French

imports of Kuwaiti oil. Balladur cited the strength of the French currency as an incentive for Kuwaiti investments in France.

The commission meets alternatively in Paris and Kuwait every year to review the economic ties between the two countries.

Before flying to Kuwait on Tuesday Balladur told reporters in Dubai that France was the driving force behind the proposed talks between the European Economic Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council, expected to take place shortly.

France realised that the age of exchanging only one product with the Gulf countries has gone, and we are living in the age of diversifying trade exchange," Balladur said. He stressed that "France would also speed up these talks until crowned with success."

Balladur later arrived in Amman from Kuwait. In Amman he said he would assure his hosts that Paris was committed to an international Middle East peace conference.

New appointments at Health Ministry

KUWAIT'S Public Health Ministry has reformed the technical committee supervising the work of the research department. Dr Kazem Bebehani has been named the new chairman; Dr Sadia Al Awadi is the new deputy chairman. Other members of the committee are Dr Ahmed Al Duaij and Dr Ashraf Hassounah.

Dr Abdullatif has been named as the director of the Technical Bureau.

Other appointments were Dr Saleh Al Kandari, who took up the post of the assistant secretary general of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations; and Dr Abdulaziz Al Einazi has become the director of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The new appointments were made by the former health minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, who became planning minister in the recent cabinet reshuffle.

Kuwait-Romania joint commission

THE Kuwaiti-Romanian joint commission yesterday concluded its meetings which started on Monday at the Communications Ministry headquarters.

They tackled the land transport and transit between the two countries according to the agreement endorsed by them in 1980.

The two sides agreed on exchanging land transport and transit facilities.

The commission decided to meet next year in Bucharest.



HH the Amir yesterday received Egypt's Justice Minister, Farouq Seif Al Nasr (left).

Saudis to start civil defence training

Riyadh, Jan 27. (UPI): Saudi Arabia, fearing a spillover from the bitter Iraqi-Iranian conflict, said it would shortly be starting civil defence training, the English-language daily Saudi Gazette said today.

Training will be held under the leadership of the civil defence general administration, the newspaper said, and would involve thousands of school and university students as well as government employees.

Kuwait, started civil defence training for the first time in August 20 to cope with a spillover of hostilities.

Officials gave no reason for the timing of the civil defence training announcement. But military experts said the Gulf states would be closely watching an expected Iranian offensive against the southern Iraqi port of Jeevan Camp.

It was attended by senior officials of the two ministries.

In a statement to the Seyassah newspaper, Sheikh Salem said he would closely follow the steps of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the principles he developed for the Defence and Interior Ministries.

Sheikh Nawaf said he intended to dedicate himself to the new Defence Minister to follow the latest advances in defence technology to ensure that Kuwait had the latest weapons.

Upgrade

Meanwhile, the three new cabinet ministers yesterday were quoted as pledging to exert further efforts to improve their ministries' services and upgrade performance.

The new Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Homoud Al Rqobah was quoted by a Kuwait daily as saying that he will try his best to preserve the electricity energy and to solve the problem of the red (drinking) water.

He added that he had several potential plans for curbing electricity consumption, and noted that there are a number of solutions for raising the water level, although that will need some time.

Baccouche ends Gulf tour

BAGHDAD, Jan 27. (Reuters): Tunisian Prime Minister Hadi Baccouche left Baghdad for Tunis after 24 hours of talks on the Iraq-Iran war and bilateral relations, the Iraqi News Agency said.

The agency quoted Baccouche as telling Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tahar Yassin Ramadan that his government fully supported Baghdad's right to defend its sovereignty and pride.

Baccouche, who came to Baghdad from Jordan, had also visited Syria, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

During the tour he explained the change of leadership in Tunisia last November, when President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali ousted Habib Bourguiba on the grounds of senility.

Sheikh Sabah hails judicial cooperation with Egypt

HH the Amir yesterday received in audience Egyptian Justice Minister Farouq Seif Al Nasr who delivered a message to the Amir from President Hosni Mubarak. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Abdulla Al Othman and Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed also received the Egyptian justice minister.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Al Othman and Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Rifat.

In a statement to reporters, Sheikh Sabah hailed the cooperation between the two sisterly countries in the judicial and legislative fields and hoped for the continuation of these ties in such fields.

Review

The Egyptian justice minister told reporters that he conveyed a verbal message to HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah from President Hosni Mubarak.

He will review with his Kuwaiti counterpart means of enhancing judicial and legislative

cooperation between the two countries.

With regard to steps taken in the unification of laws and legislations, in particular personal statutes laws in Arab countries, he said these subjects were being studied, and expressed optimism toward reaching such a goal.

He said that many Arab commercial legislations are similar, adding these similarities are used either in legislation or laws' implementation.

He pointed out that judicial laws in Kuwait are identical to those of Egypt and other Arab countries adding that this was a basis for the unification of laws and their implementation in Arab countries.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that he will be visiting Cairo in reply to an invitation from his Egyptian counterpart, Esmael Abdul Meguid.

Sheikh Sabah also received US Ambassador to Kuwait Nathaniel Howell.

The US ambassador briefed Sheikh Sabah in detail over US decision to pull off one of its aircraft carriers from the Arab Gulf waters, a decision announced by Washington a few days ago, Sheikh Sabah told reporters.

Special ceremony honours new defence minister

Ministers pledge to exert efforts to improve services



Sheikh Salem (third, left) and Sheikh Nawaf (second left) at Jeevan.

Dr Rqobah formerly director general of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (Kisr), said that the recent cooperation between the ministry and Kisr will be boosted further and expected hope he would be able to serve the country in the best way possible.

Meanwhile, the new Minister of Communications Abdulla Al Sharhan said that he will improve the administrative and technical work of the ministry and hoped to better serve the citizens' interests.

He expressed appreciation of the previous ministers affirming that he will follow suit to improve service of this sensitive field.

On the other hand, the new Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzaq

Al Abdul Razzaq who replaced Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, said that it's an honour to take the responsibility of the Health Ministry, and that he will do his best to serve Kuwait and the citizens.

Dr Al Abdul Razzaq told the newspaper upon his arrival from London that he got in mind short and long-range plans, the first among which is to solve the citizens' health problems, and then to improve health services in Kuwait, affirming that the patient's interests are above all considerations.

He stressed that he would try to deepen the confidence between the patient and the doctor, on the one hand, and to strengthen the citizens' confidence in the health centres, on the other.

Protect future generations from AIDS, appeals Awadi

LONDON, Jan 27. (Agencies): Kuwait has urged the world summit on AIDS here to concentrate among other things on protection "to guard this and future generations" from the great dangers of the killer virus.

Kuwait's Minister of Planning Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi stressed "our purpose is not to add to the sadness of those whose lives are now sundered, but rather to confront the realities of a world intimidated by the limited counter-measures available to combat the threat to the welfare of this and future generations."

Addressing the important gathering last night, he warned that "the ominous shadow of AIDS loomed high on the world which reeled in shock at the

devastation wreaked and anticipated by a worldwide epidemic."

Referring to the Third World, Al Awadi noted that many countries are unable to sustain programmes to prevent infant mortality or endemic disease and they cannot afford the technology for the prevention and control of AIDS.

He also pointed out that many Third World nations have inadequate resources to initiate fully the protective measures that are available.

Commit

The minister, who is leading Kuwait's delegation to the three-day conference, called for directing additional resources to the Third World countries "not only for their interest but also in the interest of a global effort to control the spread of AIDS."

"We should commit ourselves to their aid and lend them the necessary support in developing and implementing their national AIDS programmes," Al Awadi added.

Turning to Kuwait, he said that the country "is faced with several dilemmas in connection with the AIDS pandemic."

Among the main concerns is the question of evaluation criteria and methods and the minister posed the question "how do we accommodate the right of a healthy society with those of AIDS carriers?"

Furthermore, he spoke about the importance attached to national screening programme from AIDS and social and preventive repercussions.

Al Awadi made it clear that the Ministry of Public Health in Kuwait has the advice and recommendations of the Kuwait national committee on AIDS which proposes and implements organised programmes and

procedures in consultation with the guidelines of the World Health Organisation.

"Kuwait's Public Health policies reflect the legal and moral obligations of the country and the social expectations that require considerations of both the exposed and unexposed populations," the minister indicated.

He recalled that avoidance of additional exposure in the population and accidental transmission "have guided the initiatives and safeguards available to us" such as blood bank, disposable needless, public education and screening of risk groups.

"On the other hand, Kuwait recognises that however much attention may be given to the prevention by public health authorities, this country cannot remain completely isolated from the disease which is fast spreading around the rest of the world," Al Awadi told the 132 health ministers and other officials taking part in the meeting.

He underlined the importance given to educating the public, counselling of carriers and follow up, tracing of carrier contacts, as well as construction of a new, specialist hospital with surgical and dental facilities for AIDS patients.

The minister also referred to the establishment of WHO collaborative centre for AIDS, providing AIDS technical training for the region, sharing information, in addition to joint sponsorship of conferences.

"We recognise that success in preventing further spread of AIDS is impossible without educating the public, sharing information with the world, and providing support for Third World countries," the Kuwaiti Minister of Planning underscored.

Cyclists and pedestrians who fail to follow traffic regulations

the importance of genuinely caring for patients. He added that doctors should not become involved with commercial institutions dealing with drugs in the treatment of illnesses.

He recommended that medical awareness among the public be nurtured and that doctors be reminded of the professional aims of their work. The importance of cooperation between doctors and patients was stressed, with Dr Khaled saying preventive medicine must be implemented using approved measures.

The Editor-in-Chief of Al Rai Aam, speaking at the symposium, said 80 per cent of Kuwaiti doctors seek administrative positions which took them away from medical practice and into starting their own private clinics and into administration.

Doctors urged to take care of patients

(Continued from Page 1)

using a vehicle for unauthorised purposes.

These penalties also apply to taxi and bus drivers carrying excess passengers in their vehicles, for overcharging, refusal to take passengers, declining to produce driving licence or vehicle registration book when asked by the police, leaving vehicles parked on highways at night with lights or flashers off, and intentional obstruction of traffic.

Imprisonment of upto 15 days and a fine of upto KD25 or either will be enforced for driving below the speed limit or leaving animals on public roads causing danger to vehicles.

The driving licence would be withdrawn after serving a prison sentence, if any.

Drunken driving or driving under the influence of drugs will be punished by imprisonment of not more than one year and a fine of upto KD500 or either penalty, as well as a court ruling to withdraw the driving licence for one year. The licence can be withdrawn for three years if the violation is repeated.

People indicted in a criminal accident involving a vehicle may have their driving licence, vehicle registration book and plates withdrawn by a court ruling for not more than one year. This could be extended to three years on repetition of the offence.

The driving licence would be withdrawn after serving a prison sentence, if any.

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Police Affairs at the Interior Ministry, Brigadier Mohammad Al Qabandi, has said that the Kuwaiti security forces succeeded in confronting and containing terrorist operations.

He said this was mainly due to the efficiency of security men and the unity of the Kuwaiti people which was "at its peak" during the crisis.

He told a local newspaper that the strategy for comprehensive security development was related to economic, political and social matters and the expansion of residential areas.

Preserve

He said the "new organisational structure" of the various departments was introduced to concentrate the planning efforts of the whole ministry in one department. He added that plans had been made to preserve security in the various governorates now and in the future.

Speaking about the new police law to be issued shortly, Brig. Al Qabandi said the proposals being studied included the addition of a new rank to be called "assistant", and those holding this rank could be promoted to officers after passing a training course.

He said the promotion of police officers was postponed last year because promotions were limited due to the rationalisation policy. He added that a study was being made to re-evaluate grades and military ranks in the ministry.

Brig. Al Qabandi denied there were plans to retire a number of senior officers, saying this was only done according to the law.

OBITUARY



Malcolm Francis Carvalho
Born: 1-10-1982
Died: 27-1-1988
Son of Michael and Margaret, brother of Melroy and Mark. For funeral details please contact Tel. 2623888.

مکالمہ اعلیٰ

INTERNATIONAL

Jayewardene, Rajiv resume talks in New Delhi

Tamil kill 7 Indian soldiers

COLOMBO, Jan 27. (Reuters): Seven Indian soldiers were killed in clashes with Tamil separatist guerrillas in Sri Lanka in the past two days as the rebels continued their fight for an independent state, security sources said today.

The clashes flared as Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi reviewed in New Delhi the implementation of a peace pact under which 37,000 Indian troops have been deployed on the island.

Colombo and New Delhi have been criticised by some opposition members in the two countries for the failure of the Indian troops in the past six months to put an end to violence caused by the Tamil rebels as required by the accord.

Security sources said three of the soldiers died in the eastern district of Batticaloa where rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had regrouped and were attacking the Indian peace-keeping force.

Sabah told reporters he will be visiting India on an invitation from his counterpart.

"Sabah also received an invitation from Kuwait's ambassador to pull off one of his carriers, a decision made by Washington," he said.

The Indians had reinforced

their fighting units in the district by sending 500 more soldiers from the north and were hunting down the Tigers, the sources said.

They said two of the soldiers died in a confrontation with the Tigers at a village called Mammagama on Tuesday and the third was killed in a separate clash at Pulpipachakalum on Monday night in Batticaloa.

Clash
The Tigers, who have repudiated the peace agreement, also attacked the police station at Batticaloa on Tuesday with mortar bombs and small arms but the rebels were beaten back, the sources said.

An Indian soldier was killed in a clash on Tuesday in the northern district of Kilinochchi and another soldier died when the rebels set off a landmine under a military vehicle that was rushing reinforcement there, the sources said.

Two Indian soldiers and two Tigers were killed in a clash at Magadal in the northern Jaffna peninsula on Monday, the sources said.

They said the Indian troops had seized control of Jaffna in a military offensive last October but there were still small pockets of resistance there.

Shops, offices and schools were closed in the Tamil-dominated North and East in response to a call by the Tigers for a strike to protest the presence of Jayewardene at India's Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi on Tuesday.

The Tigers also forced some residents to fly black and white flags in the two regions to protest the military offensive against the rebels, residents said.

Strike
About 360 Indian soldiers have been killed and 1,230 wounded since they launched the drive in October to hunt and disarm the Tigers, the security sources said.

Meanwhile, ten thousand doctors, nurses, dentists and government

hospital workers went on a one-day strike in Colombo today to protest a state decision to give degrees to graduates of a private medical school.

A spokesman for the Government Medical Officers Association said members did not report for work in all eight hospitals.

Officials at the Colombo General Hospital, the country's largest, with 2,000 beds, said only urgent cases were being admitted and people with routine ailments were asked to return on Thursday.

Hospital administrative staff worked in the wards to reinforce a depleted work force of private specialists they said.

The association spokesman said it was protesting because the government had decided to award medical degrees to graduates of a private school, who would then be allowed to work in state hospitals.

The government said it wanted to encourage education in the private sector to strengthen privatisation.



Twenty-one cars of Union Pacific freight train derailed on the end of a bridge over the Maramec River in Missouri, igniting a fire and delaying rail traffic. Seven cars fell off the bridge but not into the river. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pudgy man charms women, bilks them of millions

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 27. (AP): Short, pudgy and balding, Lee Sawaya was an unlikely casanova.

So investigators are puzzled how the middle-aged man with droopy "puppy eyes" allegedly charmed scores of women and bilked them for millions of dollars in phony investment deals.

Detectives unravelling the coast-to-coast caper allege Sawaya

spent his adult life as a devious "prince charming" who may have swindled as many as 1,000 victims before he was arrested Jan 11 at a San Francisco restaurant while dining with his wife of three weeks, a woman he proposed to the day they met.

"He was not that attractive. He was short and overweight, but he had a way about him," said Sawaya's wife, "Sarah," who asked that her real name not be used. The 47-year-old Marin County real estate broker had never married when she met the man introduced as Franklin Rossi and married him Jan 8 after a whirlwind courtship.

Crazy

"Some of my friends were absolutely crazy about him," she said. "I had a piano and he would play classical and jazz and anything very well. He was charming, a little rough around the edges, but he seemed to be sensitive and concerned about people."

Bart Stinson, a Marin County sheriff's detective, said

"maybe a dozen agencies want to talk to him, coast to coast," including police in Arizona, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and New York. A warrant is outstanding in Virginia, authorities said.

O said that since the United

North Korea warns of retaliation

TOKYO, Jan 27. (Reuters): North Korea's Defence Minister vowed today to counter any aggressive act from South Korea and the United States "with a thousand-fold retaliation."

The statement by O Jin-U coincides with icy relations between the North and South. Seoul this month accused Pyongyang of destroying a South Korean airliner with the loss of 115 lives last November.

The North Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the warning from O Jin-U appeared in a statement he issued to reporters.

Since Seoul declared that Pyongyang was behind the bombing of the airliner — and produced a self-confessed North Korean agent who admitted her role in the disaster — North Korea has intensified its anti-American and anti-Seoul rhetoric.

The newspaper Rodong Sinmun said on Thursday that if outstanding questions, including that of military exercises conducted by South Korean and US troops, were not settled, "the nation will have no choice but to make war."

O said that since the United

Bush cashes in on clash with TV newscaster

WASHINGTON, Jan 27. (Reuters): Vice President George Bush is out to parlay public sympathy stirred by a clash with a prominent television newscaster into votes in the upcoming presidential primary season.

Most political experts said Bush's testy nine-minute joust on Monday night with CBS newscaster Dan Rather should help Bush's bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

Republicans saw their Vice President kick the main television anchorman in the teeth — and they loved it, "said William Schneider, a non-partisan political analyst.

Former White House political director Mitchell Daniels said the tilt, in which Bush turned interrogator by asking Rather about his embarrassing walkout that left CBS with several minutes of blank airtime, undercut the "wimp" label often pinned on the Vice President.

"To Republican voters anybody who Dan Rather is out to get can't be all bad," he told Reuters.

Boost

Bush also got a boost from President Reagan, who said on Tuesday he was fully in accord with the Vice President's refusal to divulge his private advice on the Iran arms deal.

"I think he has been exactly right," Reagan told reporters.

Rather on the CBS evening news on Tuesday made no apology for his tone in the interview, saying that he respected the Vice President but "trying to ask tough questions and trying to be persistent about answers is part of the reporter's job."

Bush complained angrily during the interview that he had been led to believe it would be a general political profile but that it then focused narrowly on the Iran-Contra affair.

Rather said last night: "CBS news did not mislead the Vice President about the subject of the interview. We dealt extensively with his staff about our intentions, we dealt truthfully with them and we stated our intentions publicly well before the interview."

Restrain

"I expect greater vigour in the prosecution of the war against the communist insurgency,"

Aquino told troops parading during the handover of military

control to new Armed Forces chief General Renato De Villa.

Aquino, backing pledges by new Defence Secretary, Fidel Ramos to crush the 19-year-old rebellion in the remaining four years of her presidency, made it clear she would not let human rights groups restrain the Army.

Charges of military abuse were "total lies" and Aquino vowed:

"I will stand by you through thick and thin, to share the blame, defend your actions and enjoy with you the final victory."

Coal mine fire in Mexico

Death toll rises to 39

MONCLOVA, Mexico, Jan 27. (Reuters): Thirty-nine coal miners were believed killed in a fire started by a short circuit in a mine in northern Mexico, an official said today.

The accident in the state of Coahuila occurred on Monday morning but by last night the last of the bodies were still being pulled out of the shaft on the mine's underground railcars, witnesses said.

As night fell, a few remaining relatives waited outside the mine for the last bodies to be brought up.

Hugo Garcia de Andra, an official of the state steel company Sidermex that operates the mine, told reporters 30 bodies had been recovered and nine were thought to remain in the mine.

He said 17 miners had been injured in the fire, three of them in grave condition with third-degree burns over 70 per cent of

their bodies.

Miners taking part in the rescue operation spoke of 46 dead and 20 injured but their versions could not be confirmed.

Independent checks were unavailable as mine authorities and soldiers prevented reporters from gaining access to the mine area.

The mine accident was the worst in Mexico since 1969 when 183 coal miners were killed in Barroteran, just 10 kms from the site of Monday's accident.

Garcia de Andra, however, denied the charges saying the mine had been checked regularly.

One of the survivors, Victor Hugo Delgado, 20, said he had finished eating breakfast when a torrent of hot air knocked him down.

"It felt like we were going to burn up," he said, speaking from his hospital bed in Nueva Rosita, where he was recovering from severe burns on his face, chest and hands.

They said 137 miners, most of whom escaped unharmed, were working in the pit at the time of the accident.

Taiwan party names Lee as acting head

TAIPEI, Jan 27. (AP): Leaders of the ruling Nationalist Party today selected President Lee Teng-Hui as acting party chairman, strengthening his bid to continue the political liberalisation begun by his predecessor.

The party said the 31-member central standing committee unanimously elevated Lee, a native Taiwanese, to the post at a closed-door meeting. He succeeds party and government leader Chiang Ching-Kuo, who died of heart failure two weeks ago at age 77.

Realistic
Lee, 65, was Vice President before succeeding Chiang as head of the government. But it has remained unclear whether Lee would be named to the party's top post over more senior party members, including Premier Yu Kuo-Hwa, who commanded broader support from

Police seize AIDS carrier

ERLANGEN, West Germany, Jan 27. (Reuters): West German police said today they seized an AIDS "carrier" who fled forced detention in hospital after biting a nurse.

The 30-year-old was hunted down in this Bavarian town on Tuesday after running amok, threatening pedestrians with a plank of wood studded with nails and spitting on police. He was taken back to hospital after a struggle.

According to police, the man bit the nurse on Jan 11 after tests showed he was infected with the fatal Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, for which there is no known cure.

Peng and other political analysts expect Lee to be elected party leader during the National congress scheduled for July.

Previous presidents and party leaders were among the mainland Chinese Nationalists led by Chiang's father, Chiang Kai-Shek, who fled to Taiwan in 1949.

The Gerakan Pemuda Marhaen, made up of young people sympathetic to the populist teachings of the late President Sukarno, and the Indonesian Islamic Students Organisation were banned for not properly registering with the government, Suara Karya, published by the ruling Golkar Party, quoted Feisal as saying.

Results

The Marhaen group, named after a farmer Sukarno once met, stresses the need for social justice and an egalitarian society in Indonesia.

The government was apparently stunned during a parliamentary election campaign last April when hundreds of thousands of young people took to the streets of Jakarta waving placards bearing Sukarno's portrait.

The election results were also

startling: The Indonesian Democratic Party, an amalgamation of Sukarno's Nationalist Party and two small Christian political parties, doubled its share of the vote in Jakarta and took 11 per cent nationwide.

Sukarno's 37-year-old daughter Rachmawati has headed the Marhaen group since 1981. Her older sister, Megawati, won a seat in parliament with the Democratic Party.

Marhaen has enjoyed strong support in the past and a number of its former members serve in President Suharto's administration.

The rightist Islamic student group got into trouble with the authorities late last year when it held a meeting without a permit, Jakarta newspapers reported at the time.

The students were reported to have discussed riots last year in the holy city of Makkah in which many were killed in clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi troops.

The Indonesian government has moved strongly since the election to neutralise perceived threats from the left and right. Trials of alleged hardliners campaigning for an Islamic state in Indonesia have resumed.

The election results were also

Twenty-two other prisoners facing charges of murder, robbery and rape were also freed, according to reports quoting officials in the para-military Philippine Constabulary in the far south of Luzon, the Philippines' main island.

On a day in which President Corazon Aquino urged the military to "go out and fight," an Army official said seven captured New People's Army rebels awaiting trial for subversion were freed in the daring night-time raid by two jeep-loads of guerrillas.

Restrain
"I expect greater vigour in the prosecution of the war against the communist insurgency,"

Aquino told troops parading during the handover of military

control to new Armed Forces chief General Renato De Villa.

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Charges of military abuse were "total lies" and Aquino vowed:

"I will stand by you through thick and thin, to share the blame, defend your actions and enjoy with you the final victory."

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KUWAIT CHESS FEDERATION

Kuwait Chess Federation would like to announce the opening of the 2nd Kuwait National Day open chess championship, which will be held on 6.2.1988.

Registration for male and female competitors will take place at K.C.F. premises in Jabriya, between 6 pm and 9pm from 23rd to 31st January, daily except Friday (each participant should bring one photo).

After completion of registration, competitors will be required to attend the pairings meeting on 3.2.88 at the playing hall. Pairing will commence at 7 pm sharp.

Winners will be awarded prizes. To secure success for championship K.C.F. reserves the right of rejecting any applicant without giving reasons.

President of the Supreme Organising Committee

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

THE luck of having talent isn't enough, you must also have a talent for luck — *Hector Berlioz, French composer (1803-1869)*.

Death squads are active again in Latin America

By Bernd Debusmann

MEXICO. (Reuters): Latin American death squads are active again, murdering with impunity.

After a few years of relative inactivity at the height of Latin America's democratic wave in the mid-1980s, death squads are operating once more from Guatemala to Brazil, police say.

Some kill in the name of ideology, some to "cleanse" society from prostitutes, thieves and homosexuals, some on contract for the multi-million dollar drug trade.

All consider themselves above the law. Few are brought to trial.

"Armed bands and paramilitary groups... escape the vigilance of (state) authorities, both military and civilian," said a recent document by the Roman Catholic church in Colombia.

"Assassination is becoming a generalised method."

Precise figures on killings by death squads are difficult to compile, but police and diplomats estimate the overall total in thousands. In Colombia alone, news media counted close to 1,500 political killings in 1987.

The roll call of victims is long and growing.

Support

In El Salvador, gunmen shot down human rights activist Rene Joaquin Cardenas Vargas on Dec 10. Herber Ernesto Anaya, the president of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission died on Oct 26 in an assassination that bore all the hallmarks of a right-wing death squad, although recently an imprisoned leftist claimed that the left had killed Anaya.

In Colombia, left-wing leader Jaime Pardo Leal fell to an assassin's bullet on Oct 11. President of the Patriotic Union (UP), Pardo Leal was the latest of around 500 party activists to be murdered since the party was formed in 1985.

His shooting was attributed to death squad killers who, in Colombia as elsewhere in Latin America, operate with the tacit approval of extremist elements in the security forces.

Latin America's "traditional" death squads have usually been made up of off-duty

S. African trade links embarrass Japan

By Graham Earnshaw

TOKYO (Reuters): Japan's position as South Africa's top trading partner is causing Foreign Ministry officials embarrassment and prompting accusations that Japan is filling the trade vacuum left by US firms which have withdrawn.

It is ironic that, as Japan's trade with South Africa continues to expand, people of Japanese race are treated as honorary whites under the apartheid racial separation rules that have led many countries to restrict contacts.

Japan also enforces a number of restrictions on links with South Africa, but the trade figures just keep growing.

According to official Japanese figures, Japan became South Africa's number one trading partner in 1986, just edging out the United States with a two-way trade amounting to \$3.59 billion.

The estimated trade total for last year is \$4.27 billion, a sharp rise even allowing for exchange rate fluctuations, officials say.

"These figures certainly embarrass the government," said one Foreign Ministry official. "We are adamantly opposed to apartheid, but the behaviour of Japanese companies with regard to South Africa does not tally with the government's policy."

A spokesman for Japan's top business confederation, Keidanren, declined to comment.

A Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official said Japan was not alone in experiencing a jump in trade with South Africa — a number of West European countries with South African links were in the same situation.

Japanese economic sanctions against South Africa, introduced in 1986, include a ban on the export of computers to South African agencies enforcing apartheid and a ban on imports of South African iron and steel.

However, South Africa is a major source of coal and rare

Motorists are reckless

SIR: Something should be done to prevent road accidents. Motorists must take care while driving. The number of traffic accidents are appalling. It seems there is an accident every 20 minutes. This causes loss of life and property. Motorists speed past schools, super markets and busy shopping centres, without any concern for the life of others. They just don't control the speed of cars.

Recently, the traffic department put up "STOP" signs on all major roads in both Arabic and English. Most car drivers don't follow instructions. They don't stop for even a minute before entering a lane and overtake other cars on highways and change lanes frequently — from the fast to the middle to the slow lanes.

Motorists are reckless and disregard traffic rules. Many young drivers listen to loud music on their tape recorders and don't pay attention to traffic on roads. Some motorists

make phone calls while driving, losing concentration.

Instead of looking at traffic and the road, the lady drivers pay more attention to looking at themselves in the mirrors. This is also a big problem.

I request the authorities to look into the matter and find a suitable solution.

Y.G. Sesha Reddy,
Satat.

Disappointing Kuwait TV2

SIR: I'm a fifth grade student at the American School. I have certain complaints. First of all, I don't like the style of KTV 2. Every week, I'm getting more disappointed with KTV 2. I thought the Arab Times survey would help improve the situation. Instead the situation is becoming worse.

Children wait for their favourite programmes. But they are changed without notice. If they do not want to show the programmes, they

should not announce them.

They have also stopped showing many nice shows like Alf, Mary, Bridges to Cross. These have been replaced with shows which are not half as good.

There are too many soccer games and too many animal shows. I have seen some soccer games, and there is hardly anybody in the stadium. If nobody's watching it at the stadium who wants to see it on TV? Fifty per cent of the football games are not related to Kuwait or its players. Football is always shown on KTV2. Why don't they show it on KTV1, which has more shows than channel two?

I am sure the animal shows don't interest KTV2. But they show them because they are new.

When the announcer tells us about the programmes on KTV2 she speaks in Arabic. Why?

KTV2 also changes the timings without notice. Programmes they start showing vanish every six weeks.

I hope the situation will improve. I would like to remind them that KTV2 should please the public.

Maaria Mozaaffar,
American School of
Kuwait.

Nice reports on car rally

SIR: I want to thank Gail Seery for nice reports on Kuwait car rally. I agree with Gail's reference to marshals as "unsung heroes." Before the rally, we were unsung. Not any more — thanks to extensive coverage in the Arab Times.

Actually the real hero is Jack Lubbat and the real success goes to Wael Khoury and Jim Goldsworthy. Rallies will be more interesting if they get permanent sponsors. We request the concerned authorities to support the Motor Sports club both morally and financially. I would like to congratulate all the participants who took part in this event. I also thank the

Arab Times for appointing such nice reporters.

Kanwaljit Singh Maini,
Hawaii.

Corrupt practice

SIR: I was recently shocked by the corruption among some airline staff at the Kuwait Airport, Terminal One. On Jan 5, Tuesday, at about 9.00 pm, I was waiting outside the airport just before the departure of the Air India flight. I saw two brokers collecting one dinar per kilo from passengers departing from Counter No. 9. Every ten minutes, one man would come and collect the money, apparently to allow excess baggage without extra payment.

I sincerely request the Air India manager to look into the matter and take immediate action. Such corrupt practices means big losses for Air India.

Kumar Raja,
Safat.



Unaffordable

SIR: We can't afford the price hike of the daily newspaper to 150 fils. I request you to reconsider your policy and drop the price of your daily to 100 fils per copy. All Arabic dailies have retained the same price.

T. Philip,
Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Face-off between Rajiv and the Indian Express

A champ or a wimp: editor's role debated

By Sheila Teff

NEW DELHI: Months of battling Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government in newspaper headlines, the streets, and the courts have not knocked the fight out of Arun Shourie.

"We've been served with 102 legal notices in the last 90 days," the firebrand editor of the Indian Express says jauntily. "I'm going to suggest us for the Guinness Book of World Records."

The face-off between Rajiv and India's largest newspaper chain has plunged the press into bitter controversy, and triggered a wider debate over the role of the press.

The Indian Express has relentlessly assailed the premier, with front-page cartoons and articles levelling various corruption charges against Rajiv and his associates. The beleaguered Rajiv once a media darling, has countered with tax raids and legal actions against the paper and its industrialist owner, Ramnath Goenka.

The government's crackdown is widely seen as both a move to silence an outspoken critic and the most serious assault on press freedom since the state of emergency in the mid-1970s. At that time, late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi closed newspapers, evicted foreign correspondents, evicted foreign correspondents, and jailed hundreds of Indian journalists.

Some experts on Latin America attribute the resurgence of death squads to the weakness of young democratic governments, their reluctance to confront the military head-on, and their inability to crack down on crime.

Human rights activists view Guatemala as a poignant example of a nation where failure to deal with the excesses of the past contributed to the mayhem of the present.

In 1986, Guatemala became the latest of nine Latin countries to switch from dictatorship to democracy. In almost 30 years of military rule, right-wing death squads are estimated to have murdered more than 100,000 civilians.

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Shourie leaves his office after a raid by police.

There are more than 21,000 newspapers by government estimates, most published in Indian languages. About 4,000 are written in English and are the publications most widely read by politicians and opinionmakers. (The Express's 11 English editions have a circulation of 750,000).

Yet, despite much-vaunted press freedoms, the media has not escaped the government's heavy hand. Television and radio are state-controlled and frequently used to spread official views and discredit opposing ones.

Newspapers are subject to subtle and not-so-subtle official pressures. Many large newspapers are owned by businessmen who readily trade coverage for the favours of bureaucrats and politicians. The government

most often, though, officials

take a softer line. Newspapers are manipulated by the loans, housing assistance, and pensions doled out by many states. In New Delhi, journalists are wooed by invitations to travel with the prime minister or to exclusive briefings by top officials.

The central and state governments also have attempted to restrict the press. Last fall, Rajiv proposed a press bill aimed at ending the "disturbing trend in some sections of the press which disregards rectitude, reason, and truth."

In some states journalists are subject to intimidation. In Orissa and Bihar, newsmen have been beaten up by police and killed by government-sponsored thugs, according to Indian press reports. In troubled Punjab State, journalists who refuse to toe the line of Sikh extremists have become victims of terrorism.

Most often, though, officials

think of the political fireworks filling India's daily newspapers.

"I can't be bothered with this rubbish," shrugs the 33-year-old poultry farmer from Bharatpur, a town 110 miles from New Delhi.

Singh and his wife, Girija, would rather read the latest juicy tidbits about movie stars in Indian film magazines. The couple buys about eight 50-cent gossip magazines a month.

Movies are an important part of our lives. Even the poorest person can afford to escape for a while into a fantasy," Mrs Singh says.

Political wars may be raging in New Delhi. But more Indians track the exploits of their favourite screen idols than the political ups and downs of New Delhi.

As a result, business is booming for India's movie magazines. About 50 major publications have a total circulation of one million. Government and figures show. An estimated six people see every issue.

Screen magazines haven't entirely politics, however, as several actors have been elected to office in recent years.

Film journalism is fiercely competitive. In the last 25 years, industry officials say, there have been about 800 film magazines, many coming and going as fast as the careers they chronicle.

Editors also admit to a new boldness. India's film industry — the world's largest — has long been a trend-setter in a traditional society. And today, with Western attitudes seeping in, stars are less discreet about their personal lives — which are related in great detail.

Shourie insists the paper is not

"scandal-mongering" and treats its competitors with disdain. "A dog with a bone in its mouth can't bark," he says. "The docile press today is that little dog."

Masses prefer film fare.

What does Yoginder Singh

Chemical arms ban chances harmed</div

EVENTS

Hot on entrees



chutney — certainly one of the most original and tasty dishes I've experienced at a buffet in Kuwait. To accompany the hot dishes one could choose from carrots, brussel sprouts, creamed parsley, macaroni, siciliana, baked potatoes or rice. The latter was a little hard but everything else we tried was excellent.

Desserts

As the saying goes, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating" and although the display of desserts looked very attractive, their taste didn't live up to their appearance. A synthetic-tasting cream had unfortunately been used to decorate the cheesecake, cherry trifle strawberry sponge and Black Forest Cake. The fresh, natural ingredients of the banana cake stood out in contrast. Fresh fruit tarts, Arabic pastries, chocolate mousse, profiteroles and fresh fruit salad were also available.

The Al Bustan, which is attractively decorated in shades of emerald and white, overlooks the swimming pool and Dhow restaurant. The bamboo chairs are more decorative than comfortable and the tables too close to each other for privacy. The low ceiling gives the room strange acoustics which mean you are very aware of the conversations of the other diners. On the evening we were there the service was a little slow and the restaurant seemed understaffed for the number of guests. But negative criticisms apart, at KD4.250 per person the dinner buffet at the Al Bustan is very good value for money. The restaurant also offers a varied range of à la carte food and a special children's menu.

RESTAURANT: Al Bustan
TYPE: Coffee shop of the SAS hotel.
MEAL: Three course dinner buffet.
PRICE: KD9.400 (for two including drinks).
Star rating (out of five): FOOD: ***
SERVICE: ***
ATMOSPHERE: ***
VALUE FOR MONEY: ***



● Syrian products are on show at the Ebla Fair opened on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel. It was opened by Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Issa Darwish. Traditional art — calligraphy, musical instruments are also on display. Picture shows Darwish (right) admiring some of the products on display.

Table Talk

BY DINAH

If you want to eat a meal in casual surroundings the dinner buffets served at the hotel coffee shops around Kuwait generally offer you a wide range of foods and good value for money. Yet, you will very rarely find that all three courses served are of an equally high standard. One hotel may provide an amazing display of salads but disappointing main courses, while another will exclusively offer desserts. At the Al Bustan coffee shop of the SAS hotel the hot dishes definitely leave the other courses out in the cold.

The salad buffet was an adequate but unimaginative selection of about twenty-four different dishes including the standard range of mezzes but no surprises to tempt the tired palate. There were also several full mono-ingredient salads such as carrot or green pepper. All of the dishes were very fresh, however, and served with an interesting selection of breads, including a very tasty home-made brown bread.

By contrast the variety of main course dishes offered was very impressive. One could choose from veal spare ribs with barbecue sauce, lamb kebabs, tender steaks and mushrooms, marinated zucchinis, ravioli gratin, a tasty prawn and chicken curry or, the star of the show, lamb croquettes. The latter contained the finest ground lamb aromatic with freshly ground spices and served with a tangy coriander.

Bingo winners



Winners of Arab Times Bingo, Game No. 62 are John Colaco, four corners: P.I. Jose, top line; Ms. Muhi Sirajuddin, first prize; Abdul Rauf Khokkar, second prize and John Fernandes, third prize. Watch out for details of Game No. 63, which will be announced shortly.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait	Al Ghazawa Pharmacy
Al Shaab Pharmacy	Kazemi Bldg., Khalid Bin Walid St.
Fahad Al Salem St.	Hawalli and Nugra
Al Salam Pharmacy	Al Haditha Pharmacy
Nr. Universal, Mubarak Al Kabin St.	Othman Complex, Bin Khaldoon St.
Hawalli and Nugra	Salmiya and Rumaiithya
Al Qatami Pharmacy	Al Nahda Pharmacy
Beirat St.	Baghdad St.
Salmiya and Rumaiithya	Fahsheel and Ahmad
Al Hiba Pharmacy	Al Wahda Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.	Main St.
Fahsheel and Ahmad	Khaltaan
Al Ahmad Pharmacy	Al Wahda Pharmacy
Souk Al Ahmad	New Market.
New Khaltaan	
Al Ahmad Pharmacy	Events welcomes items for its What's On column. They can be telexed or phoned to 4813566, Ext 285 between 1000 and 1800 hours daily, except Thursdays. Pictures will also be considered for publication. The sooner the item is submitted, the better its chance for publication.
Block 2, Sulaiman Saleh Al Rahaimani Bldg.	
Jahra	
Al Noor Pharmacy	
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.	
FRIDAY	
Kuwait	
Al Hafri Pharmacy	
Hafri Bldg., Hilal St.	

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

National Museum

Modern art paintings by Kuwaiti artist Ahmed Al Munejib are displayed at the National Museum; open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 6 pm. The exhibition continues for two weeks.

Dahlyat Abdullah

Al Salem Gallery

An exhibition of sculptures and paintings by Arab artist Rida Saleh is now on at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery in Mansouriya; open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm, until Jan 30.

THEATRE

KLT — Comedy

The next production at KLT is a comedy show *Say Who You Are*, directed by Steve Prescott. Gala performances at 7 pm on Feb 1. Repeat performances are at 7.30 pm on Feb 2, 3, and 4. Tickets — KD3. For reservations call 3947651. Tickets must be collected from the Box Office, KLT, Al Fahidi, or from Family Bookshop, Salimiya, two days before the performance date.

SOCIAL

Contact

The next meeting of the Contact, the information group for women, will be held on Jan 30, Saturday, from 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers particularly welcome. Tel. 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Children's Books exhibition

Today is the last day of the children's book exhibition at the British Council's in Mansouriya. The exhibition features award-winning books by prominent British illustrators and authors exhibited at the Frankfurt International Book Fair. The exhibition, sponsored by the British Council, is being held in cooperation with the Kuwait Bookshop. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 to 6 pm.

Winter Serenade

The Kuwait Players Winter Serenade will be an evening to remember — haute cuisine, music, sparkling and show stoppers, nostalgic ballads, moody blues and celebrated classics performed by Ross, Jenny, Lynley, Reem, Rosie and Carol. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom, Meridien Hotel, on Feb 1, 2 and 3. Feb 4 Gala Dinner and show at 7.30 pm. For details ring 2656265; 5334695 or 5730641.

Kuwait Singers

Rehearsals for the May concert are held at 7.30 pm every Saturday and Monday. New members welcome. Tel. 5331413.

Kuwait Caledonians

Kuwait Caledonians will hold Burns Night at 7.30 pm on Jan 28 at Messilah Beach Hotel. Guest speaker will be Bob Crempsey. For details phone 5610673.

Kuwait Welsh Society

New Year's Lunch on Friday, Jan 29, 12.30 pm. For further details phone 4874548 or 3940743/4 ext. 231 after 4.30 pm.

ACT

Texans or "adopted Texans" interested to help with ACT's March Texas' Independence Day Party. Tel. 5725071; 2428366 or 5639204.

PRAYERS

FRIDAY		
Fajr	5.18 am	
Zahr	12.01	
Asr	3.02 pm	5.17 am
Maghrib	5.23	12.01
Isha	6.43	3.03 pm

Kuwait-Indian Telugu Association

A cultural show will be held at 4 pm on Jan 29 at the Sharq Cooperative Society auditorium. A Telugu comedy "Votunnam Prajalee Koti Dandala" will be staged. Students of Nartana, a dance school, will present a variety of dances. The highlight of the show will be the Peacock Dance. And for the first time, a male dancer will perform in Kuwait. Admission is free for the show, which is being held as part of the 40th anniversary of India's independence.

Story Time

Story time for children will be held on Thursday from 10.30 am at the British Council in Mansouriya. Children of all nationalities are welcome.

Sargam Music Show

Sargam, a local group, will hold a music show at Messilah Beach Hotel at 6.30 pm on Feb 3. A selection of popular Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and English songs will be presented. Entertainment also includes fire dance, lava dance and a magic show. For details phone 3260455, 7 am to 3 pm.

Japan Week

A seminar on Japanese business will be held on Feb 3 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Building from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. For further details, Tel. 2518155/2518440 or the Japanese Society — 2533000 ext. 1156.

Kapilku Membership

Filipinos are invited to join Kapilku. Membership cards are available at the Philippine Embassy. For details call Jojo — 4877793.

Indian Arts Circle

A variety show will be held at the new IAC premises on Jan 28, Thursday, 7.30 pm, to celebrate the Republic Day of India. Students of the Indian, New Indian and Carmel Schools will take part in the show. Dance, music and songs will also be presented by Sudarshan Kala Mandir, Bharati Kalai Mandra, Punjabi Cultural Society and Upasana. All Indians are welcome.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

On Jan 31 a video film about the Hanan Village will be shown at the Kuwait Women's Society in Khaldiya. Women interested to attend should gather at 9.30 am at the German School. All are welcome.

Goson Show

The Goan Community will hold a cultural show to celebrate the 40th anniversary of India's independence on Feb 5, 3.30 pm at the Indian Arts Circle, Finaitees. Invitation cards available from the Football Club, Kuwait Goans Association, N.G.O.A. and organisers. Transport will be available at 2.30 pm on Friday (Feb 3) from the Church in Kuwait City, Abbasia Coop and Farwaniya, main road (opp. Grand Stores, now closed).

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam

Every Friday from 12 noon to 3 pm the "special family brunch" is featured. One child under 12 with an adult is admitted free. Children can take part in a drawing competition, play outside in the garden's playground, watch the magician or discover the ship from the Captain's bridge to the engine room. Free giveaways and souvenir picture with Nick — the Pirate for every child.

PRAYERS

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Fajr	5.18 am	
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Isha	6.43	3.03 pm

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

Sham-e-Hind (Indian Night) held every Thursday features North Indian and Bengali dishes on the buffet. Dine to music by the Carmen trio. Jaycee's Friday brunch offers funtime for the whole family from 11 am to 3 pm.

At the Messilah Beach

Impressionist and comedian J. Harvey of ITV's Copy Cats will perform at the hotel on Feb 10. For reservations contact the hotel.

At the Sheraton

Every Thursday enjoy Arab world specialties for dinner in Le Tarbouche Restaurant. Lebanese cuisine is featured for lunch and dinner in Le Tarbouche on Fridays.

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At the Ramada Al Salam

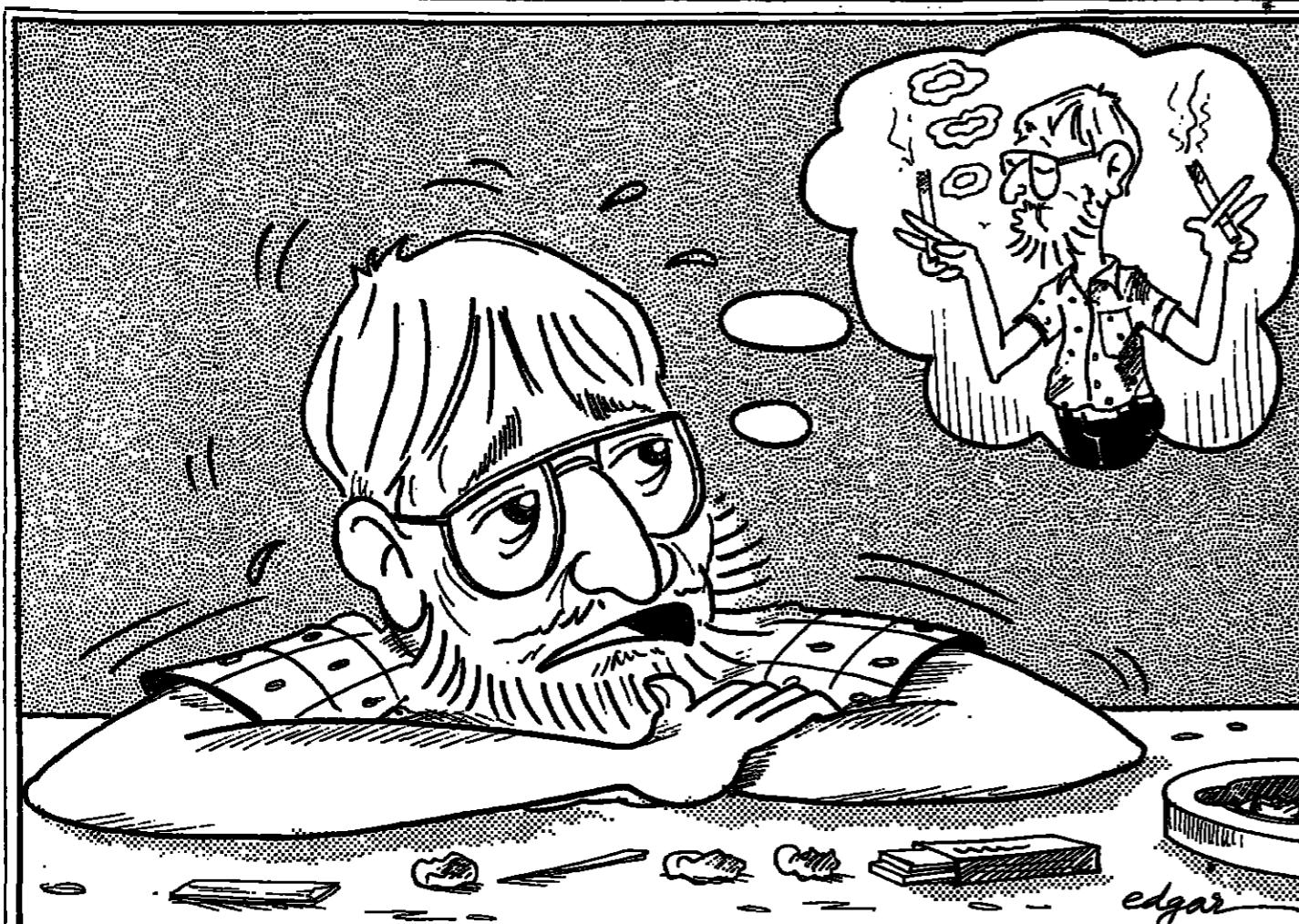
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PRAYERS

FRIDAY		

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HUMOUR



By Keith Wells

THINGS fall apart, the centre cannot hold, the world is just a little off key, where there's smoke there's fire, but where the smoke has gone there's just a smoulder. Like this morning, doing the crossword, the clue was *SWAN* and the answer was four letters beginning with *L* and *E*. I stared at it for ages, my brain bubbling like marsh gas ... a dim light flickered, then it came, "Swan Lane." On to the next clue, just a vague suspicion that something's not quite right.

The problem, gentle reader, is nicotine. I have just quit smoking after spending the past twenty years as a part-time industrial chimney and, to be honest, I am finding it just a little twitchy. The old brain isn't exactly firing on all cylinders. Instead of burbling along like a Ferrari the old Wells' nodding sounds like a lawn mower with twigs in the carburettor.

WHILE all of us were having a good time over the holidays, our eight Supreme Court justices were hard at work boning up on one of the most complicated First Amendment cases in history.

The issue concerns Larry Flynt of Hustler magazine (80000) who lost a lower court decision to Jerry Falwell (Yayyyyy) for causing the good reverend emotional distress by parodying him in a fake advertisement.

A lower court ruled that the ad, which said Falwell had sexual relations with his mother in an outhouse, did not libel him, but hurt Mr Falwell's feelings to the tune of \$200,000.

Let the Supreme Court record shows I am not a reader of Hustler magazine, nor do I stand at the magazine racks sneaking looks at it when no one is around. The only thing I have in common with the publication is we're both protected by the First Amendment.

As Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote in one of his famous opinions many years ago, "I never saw a

Where there's smoke

Simple things, like dressing myself, driving to work and stopping my fingers from crocheting my tie into the telephone extension cable are hard enough without a regular jolt of Rothmans King Size nerve gas, but difficult things, like writing, are sheer agony. For a start some swine has jiggled the typewriter keyboard so all the letters are in the wrong places, everytime I type a wurdly it comes out ronk, by the timp I hew correk it then i furgut what i wosh traying to sed.

Or else, like Swan Lane, I'm nearly there but not quite on the bell. Or else long, quite graceful sentences without a verb. I'm using oral substitutes, the ashtrays are overflowing with chewed up toothpicks, I get through a pack of twenty chewing gums a day, the office is knee deep in worry beads that I've worried right off their strings. I gaze lon-

gingly at those delicious cool white tubes of heaven, tongue slavering, lungs aquiver. Surely one little puff won't leave my throat carpeted with fluff, one deep drag will cure my every problem, just one, just one.

The snag is that ever since I quit (quaf? quut?) I can't seem to think about anything else. Life gets to be a drag when you can't have a drag and of course, there are those little social problems: 'What d'ya mean, I'm short-tempered?' I barked at the wife, gripping her by the throat. But that sort of thing is just the filter tip of the iceberg, she's just unlucky to be the butt of my troubles. See what I mean? There's a smokescreen over everything that I can't quite stub out. Ah well, hopefully, by this time next week I'll have risen from the dead ashes of my former self and be back to normal.

Will-power is the answer. Now it's a little known fact, even amongst those who know me well, that I am to will-power what Martina Navratilova is to oil refinery maintenance. But I'm hang-

The Art Buchwald Column

Hear ye, Hear ye

purple cow. I never hope to see one. But I can tell you, anyhow, I'd rather see than be one."

It has to be granted that ludicrous exaggeration is a tricky business and if done properly can inflict great pain and suffering on the intended victim.

That is why Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said in a footnote, "Parody can sometimes be truer than truth and righer than rain."

If Falwell gets his \$200,000: how many others will file suit claiming they have been made sick to the stomach by some creator of burlesque?

It isn't the money we worry about — most cartoonists and funny men make between \$800,000 and \$900,000 a year — but the chilling effect that a decision in Falwell's favour will produce among publishers and editors, who have never been to sure whether they



Block would think twice about putting jowls on Ed Meese's cheeks.

It isn't easy being on the same side of an issue as Larry Flynt. But a lot is at stake here. As Justice Hugo Black tried to tell the court years ago, "You have to defend cheap sleazy magazines to protect the constitutional rights of the expensive sleazy ones."

I believe it is the role of the parodist to make fun of every well-known figure in this country, regardless of position, sex, payscale or standing in the community — with one exception. They would have to first beat me with a rubber hose before I made light of the eight freedom-loving justices who smile down on all of us from the highest court in this land.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

A BIG INDUSTRIAL COMPANY REQUIRES REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIANS

Should have working experience to repair and maintain refrigeration and air-conditioning systems.

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wanted satire in their papers in the first place.

Without a Doonesbury, our publications would take on the ugly gray, dull look of a Pravda. John Marshall, our fourth Supreme Court Chief Justice, had this in mind when he told the graduating class of the Harvard Law School —

"The Founding Fathers warned us that you can't make fun of Jerry Falwell, then how can anyone send up Tammy Bakker?"

What do I want the present Supreme Court to do? I want them to compromise.

There are solutions that would satisfy everyone. It means fooling around with the Constitution a little bit, but no court ever minded that. I suggest the following:

The Supreme Court should order people dealing in parody, satire and humour to be licensed by the federal government and placed under court supervision.

Let us say Ed Meese objects to a Herb Block cartoon because Herb has made Ed look like a barnyard animal.

Meese, if he gets emotionally sick, can demand the immediate withdrawal of Herb's license for a period of 10 days, or the rest of his term as Attorney-General — whichever comes first.

Under these conditions

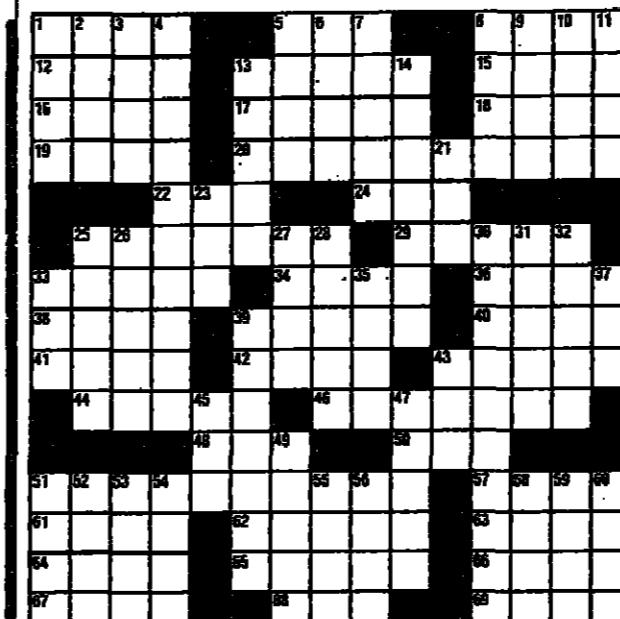


"Get your expenses in. You're on the redundancy list."



"I'll give you the good news first, before you go into a coma."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Sugar measure
- 5 Beast of burden
- 8 Cliff
- 12 Where Everest towers
- 13 Storage place
- 15 Nimbus
- 16 Maintain
- 17 Under, poetically
- 18 Comparative words
- 19 Sea eagle
- 20 — the Trojan War: PBS series
- 22 Spill the beans
- 24 Press one's suit
- 25 Sort again
- 29 Comedian Myron
- 33 Hiding place
- 34 Expectation
- 36 Object of devotion
- 38 Calif. Bruins
- 39 Worker in rattan
- 40 Mona —
- 41 Legumes
- 42 Garfield's pal
- 43 Tin Pan —
- 44 Auster
- 46 More obtuse
- 48 Ike's arena
- 50 Posed
- 51 Screen test?
- 57 Crucifix
- 61 Top-notch
- 62 Mall unit

- 63 Columnist Bombeck
- 64 Solitary
- 65 Chorus member
- 66 Spirit
- 67 Supplemented, with "out"
- 68 Catch forty winks
- 69 Daly who plays Lacey
- 70 See 65 Acres
- 71 See 65 Acres
- 72 Consumer
- 73 Appearance
- 74 Houseman TV series
- 75 Sun disk
- 76 Terminals: Abbr.
- 77 Arenas
- 78 Smart
- 79 Recidess
- 80 See 65 Acres
- 81 Blunder
- 82 Author Loos
- 83 Canterbury Tales" author
- 84 Antique auto
- 85 Malt beverage
- 86 Camptown events
- 87 Splendor
- 88 Food fish
- 89 Barrier or boom beginning
- 90 Screen test?
- 91 Roman official
- 92 Strong wind, of old
- 93 Drinking vessel

- 35 Equal
- 37 Ballad
- 39 Game
- 43 King of Judah
- 45 Point, in law
- 47 Son of Jacob
- 49 Relating to a cereal grass
- 51 Auction
- 52 Seized
- 53 Will's wife
- 54 Symbol of slimmess
- 55 — Barrett
- 56 Harvest
- 58 French airport
- 59 Muscat's country
- 60 Odense native

DOWN

- 1 Titicaca
- 2 Consumer
- 3 Appearance
- 4 Houseman TV series
- 5 Sun disk
- 6 Terminals: Abbr.
- 7 Arenas
- 8 Smart
- 9 Recidess
- 10 See 65 Acres
- 11 Blunder
- 12 Author Loos
- 13 Canterbury Tales" author
- 14 "Barrett" Tales" author
- 15 Antique auto
- 16 Malt beverage
- 17 Camptown events
- 18 Splendor
- 19 Food fish
- 20 Barrier or boom beginning
- 21 Screen test?
- 22 Roman official
- 23 Strong wind, of old
- 24 Drinking vessel

- 25 Blunder
- 26 Camptown events
- 27 Splendor
- 28 Barrier or boom beginning
- 29 Roman official
- 30 Screen test?
- 31 Strong wind, of old
- 32 Drinking vessel

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A SEASONAL GIFT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 10 8

♦ J 8 6 3

♦ 8

♦ A K J 5 4

♦ 7

WEST

♦ J 7 6 5 2

♦ A

♦ 6 3

♦ Q 10 9 8 2

♦ 7

EAST

♦ Q 9 4 3

♦ 5 4 2

♦ 10 9 7 5 2

♦ 7

SOUTH

♦ A

♦ K Q 10 9 7

♦ A K Q J 4

♦ 6 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

'Tis the season to be jolly. A time for the giving of gifts. For the receiving of good wishes. We extend ours for a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all our readers.

North-South bid reasonably to their six-heart contract, although hindsight would suggest that North would have done better to elect to play in six no trump despite the 5-4 fit. But we are getting ahead of ourselves.

West led a club, taken by dummy's king. Declarer lost no time in getting into the spirit of yuletide when he led a trump to the king and

ace. West persisted with a club, and East's ruff was the death knell.

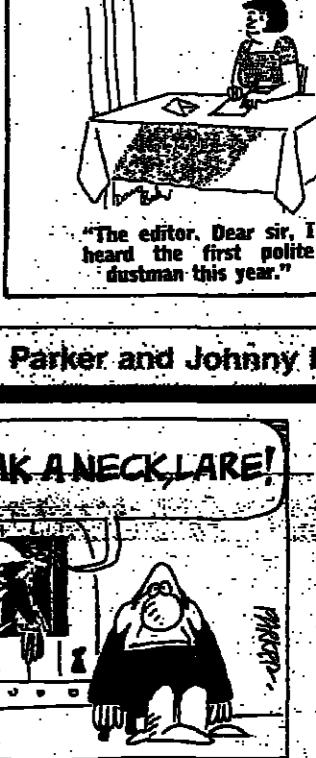
Declarer was rather unlucky to find a 5-1 club break, but he had only himself to blame for his defeat: Had he realized the threat of a ruff was there, he could have taken preventive measures.

After winning the first trick in dummy, declarer should have led a spade to the ace right away. It would then have been a simple matter to cash the ace of diamonds and cross to the table with a diamond ruff. On the king of spades declarer sluffs his remaining club, and he now can go about his business secure in the knowledge that there is nothing the enemy can do to stop him from making his slam.

Believers in Murphy's Law—that if something can go wrong, it will do well at the bridge table. They take time out to think of the worst that can occur, then see if there are any steps they can take to avert the catastrophe.



"Remember when you started here, I said we all love the boss? Well, it's your turn this week Linda."



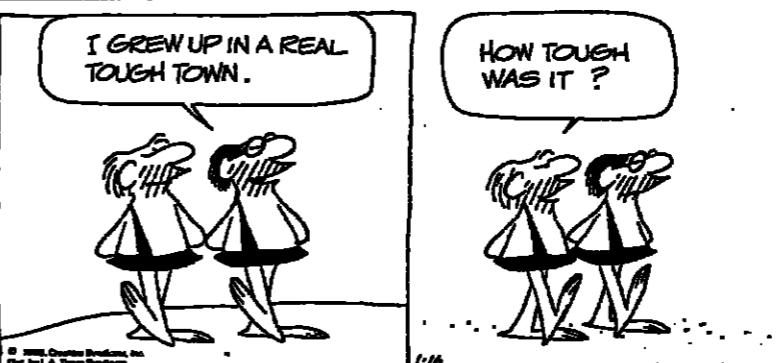
By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Johnny Hart

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



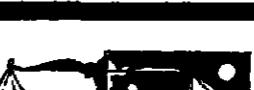
Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to get a lot done today. However you must avoid getting into an argument. You should not be in too much of a hurry to pass judgement. Be decisive.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Do not think you know all the answers and be prepared to take advice. Make sure you have read and understood the instructions before you start using a new device. The Moon's influence will help you to exploit a good opportunity. Be firm.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wage and tax cuts create jobs in Europe

WASHINGTON, Jan 27. (Agencies): Cuts in wages and taxes and measures to foster small business have recently created jobs in most Western European countries, a US economist said today.

"During the past three years employment has been rising slowly in most of the Western European countries, with France a notable exception, and unemployment rates have begun to decline or level off," said Maurice Ernst, vice president of the Hudson Institute, a private research group.

Reasons

Ernst cited five reasons behind the job creation:

— countries with what he called "excessively high labour cost" have stabilised or cut real wages, particularly Belgium and Sweden;

— Eligibility for unemployment compensation has been tightened and some rates cut;

Efforts have been made to foster small business, especially in high technology, and to encourage workers to move from job to job;

— apprenticeships at lower wages and more retraining of older workers;

— the highest tax rates and government spending have been cut in some countries.

Kuwait sticks to Opec quota

KUWAIT'S Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, in a statement published here yesterday, denied foreign reports which claimed that Kuwait was over producing its Opec oil production quota.

Kuwait, according to the foreign reports, had increased its allocated quota by 50,000 barrels per day.

A local daily quoted the oil minister as saying that Kuwait remains committed to its quota of 996,000 barrels per day. He indicated that Kuwait's current oil output is less than its Opec quota.

Despite huge slump in consumer spending

US economy expands at brisk rate

WASHINGTON, Jan 27. (Agencies): The US economy expanded at a brisk 4.2 per cent annual rate from October through December despite a huge slump in consumer spending, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that overall economic growth, as measured by the Gross National Product (GNP), was not affected by the Oct 19 stock market collapse. The 4.2 per cent fourth quarter GNP growth rate was little changed from a rate of 4.3 per cent in the July-September quarter.

This was considerably faster than the Reagan administration's forecast of 3.2 per cent.

Measured from the fourth quarter of 1986 to the fourth quarter of 1987, growth accelerated last year to 3.8 per cent from 2.2 per cent.

Market crash were unfounded.

The 2.9 per cent growth in calendar 1987 was the same as in 1986.

But using a different calculation base preferred by most economists, the economy gathered momentum last year despite massive trade and budget deficits and turmoil in financial markets.

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Business inventories rose \$58.3 billion in the fourth quarter

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Business inventories rose \$58.3 billion in the fourth quarter

the longest peacetime expansion on record, and few economists are predicting a recession this election year.

The main administration has, however, scaled down its expectations for growth in 1988 to 2.4 per cent from 3.5 per cent on the assumption that the stock market slide will eventually translate into slower consumer spending.

As people spend less, manufacturers will have to scale back production to avoid accumulating unsold goods, economists believe.

Fuelled

Indeed, the strong growth in the fourth quarter was fuelled largely by goods that were produced but not sold.

Business inventories rose \$58.3 billion in the fourth quarter

after increases of 24.6 billion between July and September and 39.1 in the second quarter, the Commerce Department said.

Durable goods purchases between October and December fell \$22.5 billion after rising 21.5 billion in the third quarter, mainly because of slowing car sales.

There was a marked improvement in the nation's trade balance, however, the Commerce Department said.

All the figures are adjusted to remove the impact of inflation.

New exports of goods and services rose \$7.7 billion in the fourth quarter after dropping by \$7.7 billion in the third.

The trade figures in the GNP report measure the actual volume of goods entering and leaving the country and adjust

them for the impact of currency changes and seasonal fluctuations.

They thus give a more accurate picture of underlying trade performance than the unadjusted monthly figures, which showed a further widening in the US trade gap in 1987 because the cheaper dollar inflated import prices.

The GNP report, confirming the monthly consumer price figures, showed that inflation remained relatively subdued last quarter despite the expanding economy.

Deflator

The implicit price deflator, an inflation gauge that measures the cost of a basket of goods and services, rose at an annual rate of 2.7 per cent in the fourth quarter.

The deflator rose just 3.0 per cent for the year as a whole.

Opec Fund gives \$43.5m to 10 developing countries

VIENNA, Jan 27. (Opecna): The Opec Fund for International Development is to extend \$43.55 million in a fresh round of loans to 10 developing countries in Asia and Africa.

Madagascar will receive \$6.20 million for the import of capital goods, spare parts and inputs required for agro-industrial production, as well as foodstuffs and other essential consumer goods.

The recipient has already benefited from seven loans of the fund — five balance of payments support loans were used to finance development projects, while two loans were for projects in the energy sector.

Aims

North Yemen will receive \$4.35 million to finance the 226-km Sanaa-Hodeidah road rehabilitation project, which aims to link the capital city of Sanaa with the country's main port of Hodeidah.

This is the eighth loan by the fund to North Yemen — six loans were used to finance projects in energy and transportation sectors and one balance of

payments support loan to finance cold storage programme and a highway project. The recipient had also received a grant of \$1.02 million to cover the country's subscription to the capital of the common fund for commodities.

South Yemen is to receive \$2 million to finance Lawder-Mukairas road project to foster agricultural development in the Lawder plain and Mukairas plateau and to improve access to a number of villages in both areas.

The project will also reduce vehicle operating and maintenance costs, and establish an improved link with neighbouring North Yemen.

Projects

This is the ninth loan by the fund to the country — one previous loan for agricultural project and three balance of payments support loans.

Morocco will receive \$6.40 million to finance Tassawat irrigation development project, which will help in irrigating 44,000 hectares of land in the region and lead to a substantial increase in agricultural and lives-

tock production.

The scheme will also help in raising the living standard of the affected rural population of about 110,000 through the creation of new and permanent job opportunities.

The recipient has already benefited from four loans extended by the fund — two were used to finance projects in energy and agriculture sectors and two lines of credit to the Banque Nationale pour le Developpement Economique.

Equatorial Guinea will receive \$1 million to be used to import capital goods, spare parts and inputs required for agro-industrial production, foodstuffs and other essential consumer goods.

This is the fifth loan by the fund to the country — one previous loan for agricultural project and three balance of payments support loans.

The project will also reduce vehicle operating and maintenance costs, and establish an improved link with neighbouring North Yemen.

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India will receive \$8 million for tubewells irrigation schemes to support the government's efforts to raise agricultural productivity and incomes of small and medium-size farmers in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The project aims to improve the state's food supplies and contribute to the country's food self-sufficiency.

This is the ninth loan made by the fund, bringing the total to \$173.3 million extended by the fund to India — eight previous loans were used to finance projects in energy, industry and transportation sectors.

Zambia is to receive \$5 million for airports rehabilitation. This is the first phase of an overall scheme to rehabilitate the physical and telecommunications facilities at 13 airports throughout the country.

The project aims to ensure safe and adequate development of air traffic in Zambia.

The recipient has already benefited from two previous loans made by the fund — one went to finance the third railway project and a line of credit to the Development Bank of Zambia.

World Business Summary

Malaysia to sign trade agreement with China

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Jan 27. (AP): Malaysia hopes to sign a trade agreement with China before the Chinese lunar New Year on Feb 17, Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Kok Wee Kit said today.

Kok told reporters that his ministry was completing an agreement that would help boost direct trade with China. Most of Malaysia's trade with China is conducted through third countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand. The agreement would give Malaysia "preferred nation" status in China, eliminating a 10-per cent tax China imposes on goods imported directly from Malaysia, Kok said.

Malaysia will amend a law requiring a licence to export goods directly to China, Kok said. The licence, issued by the National Trading Corp., costs five-tenths of 1 per cent of the value of the exports. The semi-governmental trade body uses the money from the fees to promote sales of Malaysian rubber and other goods to China. In making the change the corporation would lose about 3 million ringgit (\$1.2 million) in annual revenue, corporation officials said.

US budget deficit rises

WASHINGTON, Jan 27. (Reuters): The US budget deficit rose to \$23.88 billion in December, the third month of the 1988 fiscal year, from \$12.22 billion in December 1986, the Treasury Department reported today.

Last month's deficit follows shortfalls of \$25.77 billion in November and \$30.44 billion in October, bringing the total deficit so far this fiscal year to \$80.39 billion. In the same period a year earlier, the deficit was \$64.59 billion. For the entire 1987 fiscal year, which ended last September 30, the deficit was \$148.01 billion.

White House and congressional negotiators agreed in November to reduce the deficit by nearly \$76 billion from its projected levels over the next two years.

Government estimates of the fiscal 1988 deficit range from about \$130 billion to \$150 billion, including cuts agreed last November by White House and congressional negotiators.

Financial journalist fined

LONDON, Jan 27. (AP): A high court judge fined a financial journalist \$20,000 (\$35,400) yesterday for refusing to reveal his sources of information for articles about an insider trading case. Judge Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson convicted Jeremy Warner, 32, business correspondent of the independent newspaper, of contempt of court. The newspaper agreed to pay the fine. Warner had faced a possible two-year sentence or a fine or both under the 1981 contempt of court act, which says journalists can protect their sources unless their identification is "necessary" for national security or the administration of justice.

The judge said he drew back from jailing Warner to prevent "the creation of a martyr." "Parliament, in a democratic free society, lays down what is the law and what must be done," he said.

"Journalists are no more entitled to say they don't comply with it than anybody else." Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government turned to the financial services act of 1986 to try to compel Warner to serve as a police informer in an investigation into a purported multi-million-pound (\$dollar) insider trading case on the London Stock Market.

ALAHILI BANK AT NEW HEADQUARTERS

10th Floor Chairman & Deputy Chairman & Managing Director

17th Floor General Manager & Deputy General Manager

16th Floor Economic Research & Shares Registration

15th Floor Internal Audit Organization, Policies and Systems

14th Floor Branches Control - Marketing Visa - ATM Cards

13th Floor Legal Affairs

12th Floor Credit Group - Local

11th Floor Credit Group - Local

10th Floor Credit Group - International

9th Floor Securities Money Market and Foreign Exchange

8th Floor Assembly Hall

7th Floor Financial Control

6th Floor Accounting

Administrative Services

5th Floor Management Information Services

4th Floor Seminar Rooms

3rd Floor Personnel Training & Development

2nd Floor Processing

1st Floor Processing

Mezzanine II Test Key Mail and Telex

Mezzanine I Commercial Operations Letters of Credit Letters of Guarantee Bills and Loans

Ground Floor Main Branch - Customers and Cash Services Foreign Transfers

AlAhli Bank of Kuwait has great pleasure in announcing the transfer of its Head-Office to new premises at Safat Square.

We shall be delighted to welcome all our valued customers at our new premises effective Saturday, January 30th, 1988.

Our present Head-Office at Mubarakiya will serve as a new Branch under the name of 'Mubarakiya Branch', where a complete range of banking services will be available for your convenience.

البنك الاهلي الكويتي (ش.م.م)

ALAHILI BANK OF KUWAIT (KSC)



JUNIOR TIMES

13

Dear Junior Readers,

Some children I know, recently elected class officers. It was their first experience in running for office, campaigning and voting.

What pleased me most about the experience was that even children who had not been elected were able to share in the joy of those who had been chosen.

We often do not get what we want, while someone else does. It is important that we learn to share in others' good fortune rather than feeling angry or jealous about it.

We will be much happier if we learn this simple lesson.

Aunt Barbara

Happy birthday



Faiza Gazali celebrated his ninth birthday yesterday, January 27. Best wishes, Faiza, from your family and friends in Kuwait.

Faiza Bhatti celebrated her first birthday last week in Pakistan. Best wishes, Faiza, from your family and friends in Kuwait.

PETER is at home. He wants to go and play in the meadow, but the gate is closed.

A bird is up in the tree in the meadow.

The bird sings to Peter. Come on, Peter. Come into the meadow.

Yes, says Peter. Here I come.

He opens the gate and goes into the meadow. Peter plays in the meadow.

The bird sings up in the tree.

Peter and the wolf

A duck comes into the meadow. She goes for a swim in the water.

The bird flies down from the tree.

He says to the duck, You are a silly bird. You can't fly. See, I can fly.

The duck says to the bird, You are a silly bird. You can't swim. See, I can swim.

They argue and argue.

A cat comes up. He sees

the duck and the bird. I want that bird, he says.

The duck and the bird argue and argue.

They can't see the cat.

The cat gets near to the duck and the bird.

Peter sees the cat. Look out! he says.

The bird flies up into the tree.

The duck swims away. They are safe.

The cat looks up at the bird.

Out comes Peter's grandfather.

Come here, Peter, he says. You have to come home with me.

It is not safe out here in the meadow. A wolf may come and get you.

Grandfather takes Peter out of the meadow. They go home and Grand-

father closes the gate. A wolf comes out into the meadow.

He sees the cat, the duck and the bird.

The cat sees the wolf and jumps up into the tree, with the bird.

They are safe.

The duck swims away. They are safe.

The cat looks up at the bird.

The wolf gets the duck and swallows it down in one gulp.

The cat and the bird are up in the tree.

They are safe.

The wolf goes round and round the tree but he can't get up.

Peter looks out into the meadow and sees the wolf. He goes inside to get a rope.

Peter takes the rope up

into the tree.

He is going to get the wolf.

Peter says to the bird, Fly round the wolf, please.

I want to get him with this rope.

Look, says Peter. Here is the wolf.

He can't get away. Please help me to take him to the zoo.

Peter and the bird... the hunters with the wolf... Grandfather... and the cat.

The wolf jumps up and down. He can't get away. Some hunters come.

They are looking for the wolf.

Look, says Peter. Here is the wolf.

He can't get away. Please help me to take him to the zoo.

Peter and the bird... the hunters with the wolf... Grandfather... and the cat.



Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



THE LARGEST DOG EVER WAS HELD BY THE LADIES' KENNEL CLUB AT THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL EXHIBITION ON 14-15 DEC 1984. THERE WERE 21,212 ENTRIES AND 1,474 DOGS EXHIBITED.



THE ONLY DRUG-SNIFFING DOG HELD BY THE LADIES' KENNEL CLUB AT THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL EXHIBITION ON 14-15 DEC 1984. THERE WERE 21,212 ENTRIES AND 1,474 DOGS EXHIBITED.

TRUXX, WHO ACCORDING TO HER OWNERS, PART Pekingese AND PART Pug, WAS AN EASY WINNER OF THE UGLIEST DOG COMPETITION HELD AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR, SALINAS, CALIFORNIA, USA, IN 1975.

Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

In March, 1978, Vladimir Remek of Czechoslovakia became the first non-American or non-Russian in space when he flew in Soyuz XXVII.

Scientists think that all the land on earth was first joined into one large mass called Pangaea. The conti-

nents we know today were created when Pangaea broke up.

When Nelson's column was first built in 1840, it cost £46,000.

Mozart's first symphony was written at the age of seven.

The name Mary was first recorded as a Christian name in Britain in 1203.

Iran was the first country to become independent in 529 BC.

The first silk was made in China 3,000 years ago.

Math puzzles

HAVE you always been a little bit afraid of math problems or puzzles? Has a problem ever seemed so difficult that you didn't want to spend any time trying to solve it? Many people feel this way. But they don't have to. Solving math puzzles can be fun.

Try these math puzzles and you may find that you will learn so many new ways of solving math problems that your skill as well as your enjoyment of math has increased.

● Wendy has just skied down to the bottom of a hill in her back yard. Her skis made a trail 360 feet long, from the top of the hill to the bottom.

Now she is going to climb back to the top of the hill, along the trail that her skis made when she skied down.

Every minute that Wendy climbs up the hill, she moves forward 3 yards during the first 30 seconds, and slides back 2 yards while she rests during the next 30 seconds.

How long will it take her to reach the top of the hill?

● One day Davey went mountain climbing. He hiked along the Blue Dot Trail up Mt Minuit at the rate of 3 miles per hour. No sooner had he reached the top of Mt Minuit than he immediately began his return trip down the mountain. He went down Mt Minuit along the Blue Dot Trail at a rate of 6 miles per hour. What was the average speed of Davey's round trip?

Answers

● There are 3 feet in one yard. Therefore, the number of yards in the trail that Wendy's skis made when she skied down to the bottom of the hill is 360 divided by 3, or 120.

Every minute that Wendy climbed, she moved forward 3 yards, and slipped back 2 yards. Therefore, she actually went up the hill at the rate of 1 yard per minute. At the end of the 117th minute, Wendy had climbed 117 yards up the hill. Thus at the end of 117 minutes, she was only 3 yards from the top of the hill. She climbed these 3 yards during the next 30 seconds. Therefore, Wendy reached the top of the hill in 117 1/2 minutes, or 1 hour and 57 1/2 minutes.

● The answer to this puzzle is the same no matter how long the Blue Dot Trail is from the bottom of Mt. Minuit to its top. Let us say that the length of the trail up Mt. Minuit is 12 miles. Then the round-trip distance up and down the mountain is 24 miles. Since Davey hiked up the mountain at a rate of 3 miles per hour, it took him 4 hours to reach the top of the mountain. Davey went back down the mountain at a rate of 6 miles per hour, so the descent took him 2 hours. Therefore the total time that it took for Davey to make the round trip was 6 hours. Then the average speed for the round trip is equal to 24 miles divided by 6 hours, or 4 miles per hour. You do not obtain the average speed by adding 3 and 6, and then dividing by 2. To get the average speed for the round trip, you must divide the total distance by the total time.

Search for diamonds

Can you find the words below in the diagram? They are formed in the diagram forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally, but they are always in a straight line and are never formed by skipping over any letters.

AFRICA CARTIER GLOW MARQUISE
BAIGUETTE CRYSTAL GRIND MOHS
BORE CULLINAN HARD PERFECT
BORT CUT HOPE PRECIOUS
BRILLIANT FACETS JEWEL PURITY
CARAT GEM JONKER REGENT
CARBON

B O R T S H G E V K G E M
V P T T N P A X J B H A E
C R N M O H S R L O F F G
U E E U O I F W D R G I R
L C G P Q O H D I E D C I
L I E P L M B C A R B O N
I O R E E J A X M N C B D
N U W R W R G P U R I T Y
A S T F E K U Z Y O S P A
N Y X E J I E S C U E T S
A U X C C U T B L R S Q T
H D S T Y A T R A F I B E
W Z Z V L O E I A C U E C
J O N K E R J N R C Q A A
B E L W P C M G K F R D F
I K F G N G Q L L A A G H
B R I L L I A N T J M I M

The curse of the lost idol

In the Professor's cabin

THE Professor's door was unlocked. She nervously poked her head round the door frame and peeped inside, expecting to see the Professor fast asleep. But he was nowhere to be seen.

His cabin was not exactly empty. It was crammed from floor to ceiling with the most incredible collection of junk. There was nowhere to sit — not even on the floor, so she just stood gaping at the Professor.

Annie didn't know what to think. She slumped on to the Professor's bunk, on top of all the rubbish, feeling very, very miserable. This spoilt everything. All her cunning detective work and all her brilliant

theories were wrong ... or were they?

The Professor's story

JUST then, the Professor bounced into the room followed by the little person with the moustache.

Annie jumped up, suddenly feeling very brave.

"YOU stole it," she shouted at the Professor, in her fiercest voice.

For a moment, the Professor looked puzzled. Then, instead of looking guilty or frightened, he

smiled and began to explain.

"No, I didn't steal it. I'm looking after it. You must believe me. I knew the idol was in danger and so I had a copy made. I am bound by the curse to protect the idol. Who knows what might have happened otherwise."

Annie was confused. Was he telling the truth? She felt certain that he was, so she told him the whole story.

"I told you she was clever," the little person squeaked.

"Well done," said the Professor slapping Annie heartily on the back. "The Police Chief has drawn a complete blank but you've already trapped the Doppel Gang!"

"The what?" spluttered Annie.

The Professor produced an impressive looking police file and pulled out six official documents.

"The Doppel Gang," said the Professor pointing at the documents. "These are the crooks who are after the idol."

Annie stared at the documents. Her heart sank. She recognised two of the crooks as passengers on the boat. But were they the thieves?

Which members of the Doppel Gang are disguised as passengers on the boat?

Watch for the answer and the conclusion to our mystery in Tuesday's Junior Times.

Magic tricks

Fadeaway dime

The illusion:

A dime is fairly and openly folded into a cloth napkin. Nevertheless, when the napkin is shaken out the dime has vanished.

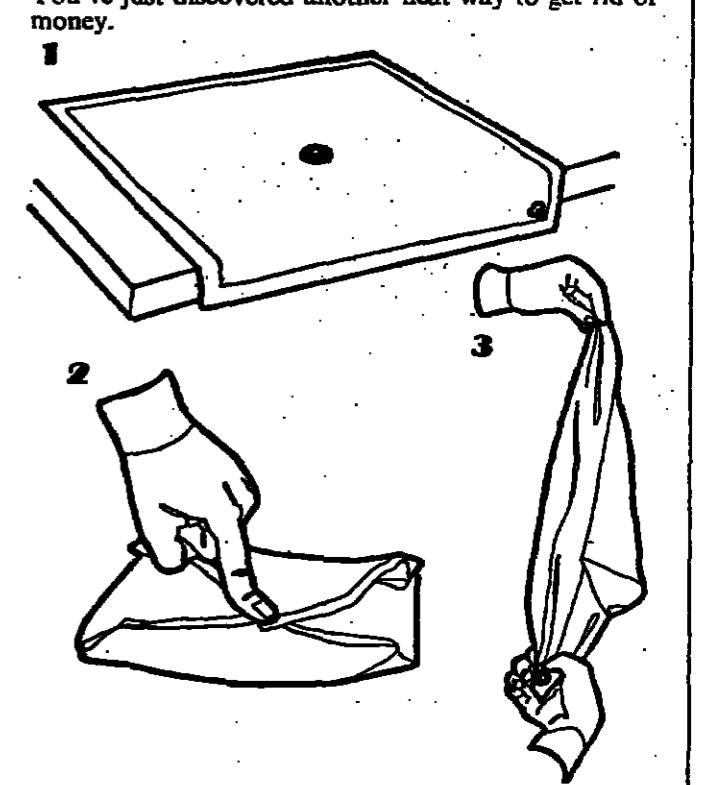
The preparation

In one corner of your napkin about one inch from the sides, you put a very small piece of either soft chewing gum, or sticky soap. Have a dime handy.

The trick

Spread the napkin out flat on the table or on the palm of the spectator's hand so that the two corners nearest to you drape just over the edge. The piece of gum or soap is on the upper surface of the cloth, in the right corner near you (1). Place the dime in the centre of the napkin. Pick up the lower left corner and cover the dime with it. Ask someone to feel the dime through the cloth. Uncover the coin, opening the corner of the cloth all the way out. Pick up the dime, show it again, and replace it in the centre. Now pick up the prepared corner and bring it to the centre, so the sticky substance rests on top of the coin. Press down on the dime. Bring in the other three corners to cover the dime, and ask someone to feel the coin again (2). Reach into the pile of corners and pick up the one that came from the upper left. Very openly, with just the thumb and finger, pull that corner out and the handkerchief up and away from the table so that the dime doesn't hit the surface. Gently wave the hanky a couple of times

to prove the dime has vanished and then run it through your hand. As your hand gets to the bottom corner (3), toss the handkerchief out for examination and you can pocket the dime. You've just discovered another neat way to get rid of money.



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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MITSUBISHI Galant, December 87, fully automatic, insured and registered upto December '90. Paid KD3000, asking KD2800. on. Tele. Joe, 2403600, 9am - 1pm, 4-7 pm. (AT6-40746-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt GLX 85, manual (5 speed), white, AC, well-maintained, 48,000 kms. KD 750. Also cooking range, KD 25. Tele. 3715354, after 9 am. (AT6-40752-3)

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RUMAITHIYA, Opp. Indian School, complete household contents; plants. Also Pontiac Le Mans 1975, single owner, 57000 kms. Registered upto November 1988. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. 5637910. (AT5-40720-3)

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SPORTS

Sri Lanka
overcome
Australian
Country XI

CANBERRA, Australia, Jan 27, (AP): Sri Lanka defeated an Australian Country XI by 14 runs in a one-day cricket match at Manuka Oval here today.

The tourists lost six wickets in scoring 238 off 49 overs with Asanka Gurusinghe top scoring with 95.

Australian Country made 224-4 in reply. Captain Terry Waller was the most successful batsman with 44 runs.

Graeme Labrooy worried the home team and finished with 3-53 off 10 overs while the Greg Irvine, with 4-49, was the best bowler for the country team.

Chance

Sri Lankan all-rounder Ravi Ratnayake pulled a hamstring during the contest, putting him in doubt for the four-day match against Victoria next week.

Team manager Abu Fuard said Ratnayake would be rested this week in an attempt to get him fit for the vital game, which will provide the Sri Lankan team with its final chance to play a full scale match before the Test against Australia in Perth on Feb. 12.

Although his team won, thanks to brilliant batting displays by Arjuna Ranatunga (78) and Gurusinghe, Fuard was not satisfied.

He said one-day games did not provide the practice his young team needed for the Test match. Fuard said the emphasis on one-day games during the tour had left Sri Lanka with few opportunities to play top class games and that it was difficult for the team to improve.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA

R. Mahanama b Benson	13
K. Karunaratne b Irvine	22
A. Ranasinghe b Irvine	78
A. Gurusinghe c Staff b Marinner	95
R. Madugalle c Marinner b Irvine	6
R. Ratnayake c Phillips b Irvine	49
G. Irvine not out	1
T. Waller not out	2
S. Kalperuma not out	0
Extras (6-2-4-4 w-13)	21
Total (six wickets, 49 overs)	238
Fall of wickets: 49 (over)	238
1/23 5/26 6/26.	

Bowling: Marinner 9-0-40-1 (3w), Benson 10-2-25-1 (2w 1b), Bevan 16, Bevan 10-2-25-1 (2w 1b), Irvine 10-1-49-4 (3w), Kelaher 3-0-23-1 (1w).

AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY XI

R. Staff c Karunaratne	1
S. Seeler b Ratnayake	4
M. Mason c Madugalle b Asanka	12
G. Phillips run out	39
M. Kelaher b A. de Silva	29
M. Curry run out	57
G. Irvine c Tillerkeratne b Labrooy	22
M. Bevan b Labrooy	14
T. Walden c Kalperuma b Ranatunga	44
D. Benson not out	4
E. Marinner not out	6
Extras (6-2-4-4 w-8)	18
Total (nine wickets, 49 overs)	224
Fall of wickets: 1-6 2-26 3-62 4-72 5-118 6-140 7-182 8-215 9-220.	

Bowling: Labrooy 10-0-53-3 (1w), Ratnayake 5-1-13-1 (3w), Asanka 7-2-28-1 (1b), De Silva 10-0-57-1 (1b), Ratnayake 10-1-30-1 (1w), Kalperuma 7-0-45-0 (1b).

W. INDIES BECOME A BETTER TEAM AFTER TOUR

Richards pulls off twin tasks in India



Patterson nicknamed 'Batterson' by Indians

TRIVANDRUM, India, Jan 27, (Reuter): The West Indies' tour of India could not have ended on Monday on a more satisfying note for skipper Vivian Richards, whose task, besides winning matches, was also to rebuild a side from young, raw talent.

Richards, a giant in the game, accomplished both.

"I am most pleased with the performance of my team," Richards said after West Indies thrashed India by nine wickets in the seventh and last one-day international here.

Sensation

West Indies dominated the Test matches and were ahead until India conjured up a sensation to draw the four-Test series 1-1.

But West Indies, masters of one-day cricket, won all but one contest in the eight-match series — one of the eight was declared unofficial and did not qualify as an international.

Richards has every reason to feel satisfied with the victories. Young Carl Hooper and Phil Simmons have improved with every match, auguring well for the future of West Indian cricket.

Paceman Courtney Walsh, with his gentle rhythm and control of line and length, was outstanding. He took as many as 26 wickets in the four Tests and was

instrumental in victories in one-day internationals.

Patrick Patterson, promptly nicknamed "Batterson" by the Indian press and public, was a nightmare for Indian batsmen in most matches.

"It is a much better sight leaving India this way than at the time we came," Richards said.

"We are going back a much more balanced and experienced team."

The series always threatened to erupt into a no-holds barred contest with both teams wanting to win at any cost. In the event, the games were marred by unsporting behaviour by players against umpiring decisions that went against them.

In the very first one-day international at Nagpur, a controversial umpiring decision over a catch taken by Richards sent Indian skipper Dilip Vengsarkar into a rage.

Umpire Rajesh Mehra gave Vengsarkar out only after Richards threw the ball down in disgust, kicked it and walked towards him gesticulating.

"Viv Richards' ugly and unpardonable behaviour was matched by the fickle and weak-minded umpiring," said the fast-circulation Indian Express.

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"We are going back a much more balanced and experienced team."

The series always threatened to erupt into a no-holds barred

contest with both teams wanting to win at any cost. In the event, the games were marred by unsporting behaviour by players against

umpiring decisions that went against them.

In the very first one-day international at Nagpur, a controversial

umpiring decision over a catch taken by Richards sent Indian skipper Dilip Vengsarkar into a rage.

Umpire Rajesh Mehra gave Vengsarkar out only after Richards threw the ball down in disgust, kicked it and walked towards him gesticulating.

"Viv Richards' ugly and unpardonable behaviour was matched by the fickle and weak-minded umpiring," said the fast-circulation Indian Express.

Richards has every reason to feel satisfied with the victories. Young Carl Hooper and Phil Simmons have improved with every match, auguring well for the future of West Indian cricket.

P

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Qatar Rally

FOLLOWING Fisa's last minute decision to ban Group B rally cars from competition in Middle East Championship events, Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Saeed Al Hajri, have both entered Group A Toyotas in the Qatar International Rally which is to be held on February 11 and 12, and is the first round of this year's championship.

Goans soccer

UNITED Goans Centre has announced that their 10th Annual Football Tournament will be held shortly. Draw will be made on Feb 12 while entries are open until Feb 10. A number of other competitions will also be held. For further information contact Moses 2454266 or Salema 472716.

Zola Budd

SOUTH AFRICAN-born Zola Budd faces protests when she runs in the British trials for the World Cross-country Championships on Saturday, anti-apartheid campaigners said today.

Gold tourney

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 27. (AP): Greg Norman of Australia and Ian Woosnam of Britain head the entries for the \$360,000 Daiky Palm Meadows Classic golf tournament, which begins tomorrow over the par-72 Palm Meadows resort course.

IBA membership

MOSCOW, Jan 27. (Reuter): The Soviet Union will join the International Baseball Association (IBA) in March, the official Tass news agency reported today.

Special awards

LONDON, Jan 27. (AP): More than 200 British Olympic medalists from the past 68 years converged on Buckingham Palace last night to receive a special commemorative award from Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth II.

Minter out

AUCKLAND, Jan 27. (Reuter): Second seed Anne Minter of Australia crashed out of the second round of the \$50,000 Auckland women's international tournament today, beaten in straight sets by French teenager Emanuelle Derly.

Nabisco GP

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 27. (AP): Eliot Teitscher and Lawson Duncan, both of the United States, yesterday moved to the second round of the \$130,000 Nabisco Grand Prix men's tennis tournament.

Nigerian soccer

LAGOS, Jan 27. (Reuter): Nigeria says it will introduce professional soccer next year to raise the standard of the game in country.

Botham and Dilley boost Worcestershire

LONDON, Jan 27. (Reuter): Worcestershire's signing of England Test cricketers Ian Botham and Graham Dilley paid handsome dividends with the county reporting a record operating surplus of £74.825 (\$134,000) for last season.

"It is very gratifying," said treasurer Peter Seward. "The committee has taken bold decisions in the last year or two and it is good to see the return on these both in terms of success on the field and now in financial terms."

Treble

Worcestershire, who won the Sunday League title in 1987, more than trebled their commercial income to £84,674 (\$152,400).

"Our new signings at the beginning of the year generated a great deal of interest, so much so that subscription income was almost double the previous season," Seward said.

Fenech to fight Callejas for vacant WBC crown

SYDNEY, Jan 27. (Reuter): Australian Jeff Fenech will challenge Victor Callejas of Puerto Rico for the World Boxing Council featherweight title in Sydney in March.

Fenech has vacated his WBC super-bantamweight title in order to fight Callejas on March 7, promoter Bill Mordey said today.

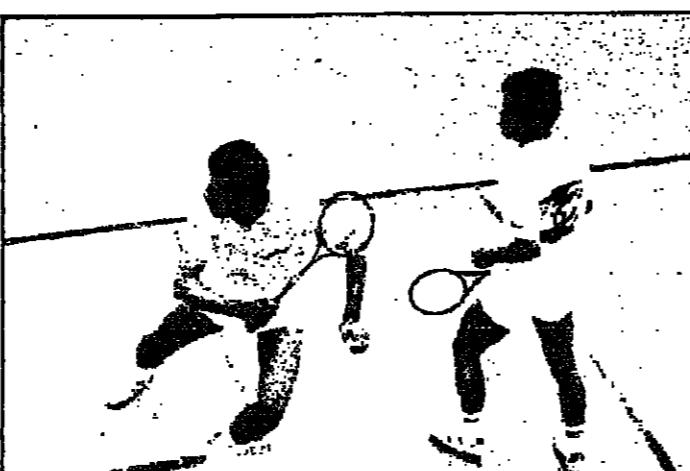
Important

Fenech was named as the WBC's number one featherweight after the world title was relinquished earlier today by Azumah Nelson of Ghana. Mordey said.

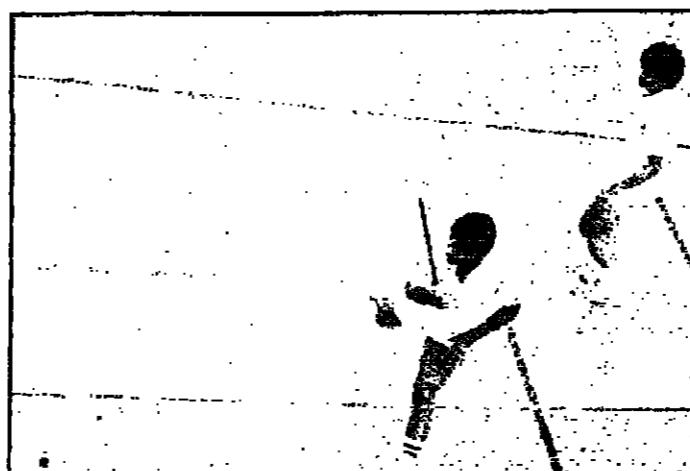
"It's very important for me to

KUWAIT FINISH IN SEVENTH POSITION

Hong Kong reach final round of team event



Fakher (left) waits for the ball.



Tareq (left) sends a return.

the fitness he required to topple Jansher for the No. 1 spot.

Jahangir said that he runs nearly 17 km everyday and after that does some very difficult exercises to tune up his body. These exercises are followed by court practice for hours. It is due to this reason, Jahangir says, that he finds very little time for any other activity.

Talking of his defeat by New Zealand's Ross Norman, Jahangir said that luck had stayed on his side for a period of nearly six years in which he had not lost a single match but before the game against Norman he had been off the court for nearly two months. This absence brought about his defeat as he had not been fully fit and had been relying on his confidence to take him to the world title again. Jahangir had beaten Norman 45 times before that defeat and has defeated him a number of times after that.

Jahangir added that it was

natural for the other top squash players to try to beat him because by doing so, they could have their names placed on the map of the squash world.

Suddenly

About his seven consecutive defeats to compatriot Jansher, the world No. 2 said that in the first four matches he had always won the first two sets and in one case the matchpoint in the third had been in his favour when Jansher suddenly turned the game around.

Jahangir said that these defeats had affected him, as they came after six years of victories, and the standard of his game started to drop. But now he has doubled his training hours and has set his mind on beating Jansher.

The Asian champion hopes to get his revenge at the Spanish Open scheduled for March this year. Jahangir said that his game depended on speed, fast balls, continuous attack and attack.

Jahangir yesterday denied that he was a millionaire as some people claimed. He said that he had enough money and was living happily. He owns a private company and the Falcon Company in Kuwait are his agents here.

Jahangir yesterday denied that he was a millionaire as some people claimed. He said that he had enough money and was living happily. He owns a private company and the Falcon Company in Kuwait are his agents here.

Pleased

Talking about the present championship, Jahangir said that all the participants were pleased with the organisation of the event. He praised the organisers for doing such a marvellous job.

Jahangir made particular mention of Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and the president of the Kuwait Squash Federation Sheikh Fahd Al Saad, who have taken personal interest in this event and are making all-out efforts to ensure its success.

Auto racing

STUTTGART, West Germany, Jan 27. (AP): Daimler-Benz, maker of luxury Mercedes cars, plans to return to the auto racing circuit this year after more than 30 years, a company spokesman said yesterday.

Rockets 97, Clippers 104

Houston's Akeem Olajuwon scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace the Rockets to a 124-104 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Houston led

Jackson takes Knicks past Nets

NEW YORK, Jan 27. (AP): Roundup of National Basketball Association Games played last night:

Knicks 122, Nets 101

Mark Jackson matched his season high with 22 points and broke a 38-year-old team record for assists by a rookie as the New York Knicks defeated New Jersey 122-101. It was the Nets' 17 consecutive road loss this season.

In the game in New York, Jackson had seven assists, raising his season total to 388, two more than Dick McGuire had as a rookie for New York in 1949-50.

Gerald Wilkins led New York with 23 points and Patrick Ewing had 18.

Celtics 102, Hawks 97

Robert Parish keyed a 10-0 Boston surge in the final two minutes to power the Celtics to a 102-97 victory over Atlanta, snapping the Hawks' home-court winning streak at 16 games.

The Hawks, leaders of the Central Division who fell to 17-2 at home, had taken the lead at 93-92 on the last of Dominique Wilkins' 38 points with 3:11 left before a sellout crowd of 16,451 in Atlanta.

Kevin McHale led the Atlanta Division-leading Celtics with 21 points.

Pacers 97, Bulls 104

Chicago's Scottie Pippen scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace the Chicago Bulls to a 104-97 victory. The Bulls, who have now lost nine straight road games, trailed by 14 at halftime and four entering the fourth quarter. But Chicago used a 13-3 run, with Michael Jordan scoring nine, to go up 87-85 on Jordan's free throw with 2:50 to play.

Rockets 97, Clippers 104

Houston's Akeem Olajuwon scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace the Rockets to a 124-104 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Houston led

Results

Boston 102 Atlanta 97
New York 122 New Jersey 101
Indiana 97 Chicago 93
Dallas 128 San Antonio 111
Houston 124 L.A. Clippers 104
L.A. Lakers 111 Utah 100
Portland 112 Milwaukee 106
Seattle 116 Sacramento 100

Shooting event

A SHOOTING competition, under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla, starts at the shooting range of the Hunting and Equestrian Club in the final.

The competition will last for four days. Only those who have already registered their names for the tourney can participate in the event.

Jansher routs qualifier

ANTWERP, Belgium, Jan 27. (Reuter): World champion Jansher Khan and his predecessor Ross Norman of New Zealand both advanced to the second round of the Belgian Grand Prix squash tournament last night.

The 18-year-old Jansher thrashed Australian qualifier Greg Pearson 9-1 9-1 9-1 in a mere 16 minutes, but defending champion Norman was put through a stern test by Welshman Adrian Davies, ranked number 36 in the world.

Place

Dalghish also has to decide whether to recall fit-again regular goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar in place of Mike Hooper, who has not conceded a goal in his four appearances as deputy.

One factor in Liverpool's favour is Villa's shaky home form. While Taylor's side has posted 11 victories away from Villa Park in the League, it has managed only five out of 15 at home.

den Belgian Squash Trophy' worth \$26,000.

The player who wins the tournament three times in five years keeps the trophy, a concept similar to the diamond racket tennis event staged here in the autumn.

But although Norman won the Belgian Grand Prix in 1986 and 1987, he has to defy the odds to retain his title this time, which would earn him the trophy.

Norman, who has slipped from second to fourth in the world rankings recently, is scheduled to meet Jansher in the final on Sunday.

Sweden's Anders Wahlstedt was the only seeded player who crashed out in the first round. The eighth seed was thumped 4-9 9-7 9-2 9-6 by Sami Elokuoro of Finland.

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